

## Mr Nixon calls Vice-President to White House as upport collapses

President Ford was summoned to the White House yesterday, the day after he made a speech which he said the erosion of confidence in the American Government had reached crisis proportions. He spoke with Mr Nixon for an hour, it was stated that the possibility of the President's resignation was not discussed. A list of Republican Senators calling on Mr Nixon to go grew yesterday, and more newspapers which endorsed his candidacy for the presidency demanded his impeachment or resignation.

## More senators call for resignation from office

Patrick Brogan  
Washington, May 10  
Ice-President Gerald Ford was summoned to the White House today after his warning of the erosion of public confidence reached crisis proportions. An hour with President Nixon. A statement afterwards, however, said that the two men did not discuss the possibility of Nixon's resigning.

Mr Ford is very well prepared for his interview and knows on the matter and that President intends to continue his term, the press secretary said.

Ice-President Ford himself later that the question of President's resignation did come up directly. "I could not have had an intention of resigning," he said.

Mr Nixon, however, is now in more intense pressure to ever before to resign. Republican leaders in both houses of Congress are saying that he should resign or, if comes to the same thing, the national and party would be served by his resignation.

In Nixon's spokesman con-

tinued to offer on every occasion the President has no intention of resigning and will serve his term. Mr Spiro Agnew is remembered continued to say that he would leave the Presidency right up to the moment.

Two things have driven the Nixon back against the wall: release of the White House transcripts and the opening of impeachment hearings by the House of Representatives.

House of Representatives committee on the judiciary has had time to read transcripts now and it seems many influential people concluded from their reading that Mr Nixon is guilty of main charges made against him.

Senator Marlow Cook, of Ken-

ya, today became the fourth Senator to call for President's resignation. He said a difficult resolution had been reached and clearly many of Nixon's supporters, including Senator Richard Schweiker, Pennsylvania, is also up for

him.

Photograph, page 3

wo-thirds rise  
r night  
te electricity

Michael Horwitz

High rate electricity charges by two firms, Mr Eddie Jameson, Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Energy, said yesterday.

In the special white tariff, which consumers' storage radiators pay, will be 0.3p a unit and follows Healey's announcement in March budget of a price increase in electricity.

The rise is being applied to the off-peak rate and the standard rate, so that proportionately the cheaper tariffers most.

ough the rate will vary along the regional boards, the of each unit will rise from 0.45p to 0.75p. The standard rate is going up from 0.13p, a 30 per cent increase.

A Commons written reply Eddie said: "The percent increase in the bills of most consumers, however, will be substantially smaller than the case in their night rates." ough the rise had been expected it drew an angry response from consumers.

Consumers' Association said: "It obviously now means storage heaters are one of the most expensive forms of heating in the home. They are expensive than gas convector heaters."

Electricity Council said: "It is related to the extra for fuel which the electricity industry has faced recent months. This is passed on to the customer his share to increase. This does not your bill goes up 70 per cent."

Electricity boards do not pr that night storage heaters lose their popularity be- of the increase."

Electricity said: "Night storage radiators remain very competitive form of heating in the home. The units still cheap in relation to the day units." ough the increased cost to house is using both day and night is expected to be about 10 per cent.

## Hostages murdered as police storm jail

Genoa, May 10. Four people were killed today when the police stormed Alessandria prison north of Genoa, where three convicts had barricaded themselves inside the hospital wing with 16 hostages in an attempt to obtain their freedom.

The dead included three hos-

tales—woman social worker who had her throat slit, and two prison guards.

One of the three convicts,

Domenico Dibona, was also killed. Cesare Concu, the ring-leader in the escape attempt,

was critically injured together with the third prisoner, Eraldo Levero.

A prison guard was very seri-

ously wounded while about a dozen other hostages suffered superficial or less serious injuries.

"It was a bloodbath," one shaken official said on leaving the prison.

According to one report, the shooting seems to have started when the prisoners were preparing to board a minibus put at their disposal in accordance with their demands.

The police lobbed in a barrage of tear-gas grenades and opened fire while the prisoners retaliated by opening up on the hostages. All reports coming out of the jail were extremely confused.

When the sound of gunfire had died away, two bodies hidden under white sheets were carried out on stretchers.

A large and increasingly angry crowd had packed the area outside the jail before the assault. Shouts were heard demanding that the convicts be lynched.

The three convicts, two of them murderers and the other an armed robber, killed a prison doctor and wounded another hostage critically in the head when police made a first attempt to storm the jail yesterday.

According to police, both hostages were shot in the back of the head, after their hands and feet had been bound.

The prisoners had demanded a minibus and police escort to drive them 185 miles to freedom. At one point they delivered an ultimatum that they would start killing one hostage every half hour, and the time limit passed and they extended the ultimatum.

In his broadcast on April 29, Mr Nixon said: "The action of the House in voting a formal accusation, requiring trial by the Senate, would put the nation through a wrenching ordeal. It has delayed legislation in its lifetime a century ago, and never since America has become a world power."

The impact of such an ordeal would be felt throughout the world, and it would have its effect on the lives of all Americans for years to come."

There is no doubt that the President is right. The impeachment inquiry in the House of Representatives will dominate the news at least until the end of July and will in all probability then go to the Senate.

Staunchly Republican newspapers like the Los Angeles Times and the Chicago Tribune have come out in the past couple of days with demands that the President resign. Practically

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## Mr Short says he did not know of Smith link with builders

By Christopher Sweeney

In a letter to *The Times* today Mr Edward Short, Leader of the House of Commons, says that in 1963 when he accepted £250 from Mr T. Dan Smith he did not know there was any connection between Mr Smith and Cruden, the construction company at the centre of dispute involving building contracts.

Mr Short also denies that he acted improperly by intervening in the affair or that he attempted to secure the Newcastle building contract for the company. In the letter Mr Short says that his "extremely limited" intervention was designed solely to help his constituents. I acted in perfectly good faith in the interests of my

own people and I hope I shall always do so."

He says that at the time he did not know of the declared or undeclared interest of Mr Smith, a former local councillor recently jailed for corruption, in the Cruden's contract.

"What I did know was that at a Labour group meeting in July, 1963, Mr Smith denied emphatically to his colleagues that he had any interest at all in Cruden's Councillor Walter Wilson, who was present, confirmed this to me only this week, and added that Mr Smith threatened to sue anyone who alleged that he had such a connexion."

Mr Short points out that the detail of Mr Smith's interests in Cruden's is and was obscure. It was true, however, that Mr Smith declared an

interest in the company in July, 1962, at a meeting of the housing committee. Mr Short continues, although this interest, he was told, then concerned a "small painting contract that Mr Smith's decorating company held from Cruden's".

Mr Short says that "allegations" in a leading article in *The Times* on May 7 were untrue.

"In this you allege that

I used my best endeavours on behalf of the Cruden's contract

at least three separate occasions,

two of them when I was

acting specifically as a member

of Parliament, without disclosing

that I had accepted an offer of

money from a public relations

firm although I may have known

that the firm, or its principal,

was acting for Cruden's. This

is not true."

Mr Short says that his Commons question in June, 1963, to Sir Keith Joseph, then

Louis Heren sta  
the case  
impeachment, page 8

## Closed shop may stay despite law, judge admits

The fight by Mr Joseph Langston, a dismissed car worker, to get back his job at Chrysler's received a setback at the National Industrial Relations Court yesterday.

Sir John Donaldson, a court's president, said he understood Mr Langston's feelings about reengagement. He added: "The plain fact is that no industrial tribunal could possibly, in the general climate which exists, recommend that Chrysler's, as good employers, ought to take you back."

Mr Langston would no doubt say that such a recommendation ought to be made "to uphold industrial standards". But industrial tribunals do not make orders to uphold principles. They make orders to try to produce good industrial relations, and if you were to go back to Chrysler's it could not improve industrial relations."

Mr Langston replied that Sir John was suggesting that a closed shop could be operated irrespective of the law. Sir John said: "That may be the fact."

Mr Langston was dismissed by Chrysler's because workers at the company, which has an agreement for 100 per cent union membership, refused to work with Mr Langston when he resigned from the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers. He was suspended on full pay for 15 months before eventually losing his job. He wants the court to recommend the company to take him back.

Mr Langston told the court yesterday that he was not claiming compensation from the union, against which he has made allegations of unfair industrial practice. He wants the court to give a legally enforceable declaration that he is not legally entitled not to be a member of any of the unions recognised by Chrysler's.

Armed with a judgment of the Court of Appeal, in which Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, spoke of a worker's right to work, Mr Langston is asserting that if such a right exists the court has a duty to recommend that he be reengaged by Chrysler's.

Before the hearing is resumed on Monday Mr Langston will discuss with Department of Employment conciliation officers how much compensation Chrysler's should pay him for unfair dismissal.



## Two top IRA men captured in flat in fashionable Belfast suburb

From Robert Fisk

An attractive £50,000 house surrounded by rose gardens and well tended lawns in the most fashionable, middle-class area of Belfast turned out yesterday to have contained the Provisional IRA's tactical head-quarters in the city. In a raid on the house, which had been unoccupied, the police and the RUC, not only recovered a wealth of maps, plans and documents, but also found the most senior IRA officer in Belfast dressed, as beffited a man in such opulent circumstances in a smart new penthouse three-piece suit.

Later, two police constables were shot dead at almost point-blank range as they walked down the Lisburn road four miles from the centre of Belfast. The two RUC men

were taken completely by surprise. Neither offered any resistance and last night they were being interrogated.

Myrtlefield Park runs off the Malone Road, one of the most select districts in Belfast, where several of the city's leading businessmen, lawyers and politicians live. The house at number 64 is divided into flats and none of the other residents knew that the man they must have passed in the drive was

Mr Hughes.

That was scarcely surprising because the photographs of his on police files showing a roughly shaven man with long, scraggy hair, bore little resemblance to the well dressed young man of 26 arrested yesterday.

The Army had apparently received information during the morning that Mr Brendan Hughes, the IRA's Belfast brigade commander, was living in a downstairs flat at the house, in Myrtlefield Park, with Mr Denis Loughran, another senior Provisional officer. The two

men were taken completely by surprise. Neither offered any resistance and last night they were being interrogated.

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## HOME NEWS

## 'Minister of poverty' may be appointed to coordinate action

By Pat Healy

Social Services Correspondent  
The Prime Minister yesterday agreed to consider forming an inter-ministerial group to coordinate action against poverty in Britain and the developing countries. He did so at a meeting with a group of six major poverty charities who hope that a senior "minister of poverty" will be appointed.

Mr Wilson agreed with the group's view that poverty in Britain and the Third World were linked and should be tackled through much greater redistribution of wealth on an international as well as a national scale. He also accepted that government action to help the poor in one part of the world should not be at the expense of others.

The group, formed on the initiative of War on Want and the Child Poverty Action Group, met Mr Wilson at 10 Downing Street for talks lasting over an hour. The Prime Minister was accompanied by Mrs Hart, Minister for Overseas Development, Mr Brian O'Malley, Minister of State for Health and Social Security, and Lord Harris, Minister of State at the Home Office.

Mr Wilson welcomed the formation of the group and agreed that a similar official group was needed to consider how poverty at home and overseas could be tackled through integrated policies. He suggested that before a further meeting the group should consider specific points to enable appropriate ministers to take part in the discussions.

Mr Peter Burns, general secretary of War on Want, told the Prime Minister that the group was concerned that the universality of poverty should be recognized and that there was potential conflict between the needs of the poor in Britain and overseas. Reducing tariffs, for example, would raise the living standards of people in the Third World but could result in unemployment in Britain.

Mr Burns said afterwards that it was particularly encouraging that the Prime Minister would meet the group again and had agreed to consider setting up a governmental committee to oversee the group and, Mr Burns said, the logical step would be to appoint a minister of poverty.

Mr Frank Field, director of the Child Poverty Action Group, said: "I am elated. This is the first time we have had such a clear commitment to do something about poverty since Mr Macmillan gave his pledge on family allowances. I think we must see this time that the pledge is fulfilled."

## Mr Wilson compared to 'cheap huckster'

By Our Political Staff

Mr St John-Stevens, shadow minister for the arts, yesterday accused Mr Wilson of "descending to an inventive and inimical worthy of a cheap party huckster".

Speaking in Southend, he said the Prime Minister was like "a squid trapped in a corner squirting a jet of dirty ink over the press and Opposition leaders and any MP who has dared in the mildest way to question his or his ministers' conduct".

Mr Wilson's clear intention had been to intimidate MPs from doing their duty "because no one wishes to be bullied with the kind of mud he is flinging". To their great credit, journalists and editors had continued to print the facts as they found them.

The Prime Minister has not only failed to uphold the received standards of public life, he has all but destroyed the doctrine of ministerial responsibility", Mr St John-Stevens said. The sooner the people wake up to what was happening and halted this sorry and degrading process, the better" for the nation's political life and future.

Mr Cyril Smith, Liberal MP for Rochdale, yesterday accused the Conservatives of being "afraid of voting in the House". Mr Heath and his colleagues were an inept, weak Opposition, he said.

Speaking at Royton, Lancashire, Mr Smith said: "The only effective opposition in this Parliament is being provided by the Liberals. The Tories are not earning their keep. They are an expensive luxury for the taxpayer."

Mr Richard Wainwright, Liberal MP for Colne Valley, said at Penistone, Yorkshire, last night that the Conservatives were trying to pull the wool over the eyes of the electorate.

## Maudling lawyers scrutinize new book

By a Staff Reporter

Lawyers acting for Mr Maudling, the former Home Secretary, were inspired yesterday to decide whether a book which deals with his association with the Real Estate Fund of America defames him. The book, *A Little Pot of Gold*, was written by Mr Michael Gillard, a member of Granada Television's *World in Action* team.

Mr Maudling is already suing Granada over allegations made in its *World in Action* programme on Monday night which dealt with John Poulsen's involvement in a Malta hospital contract and suggested that Mr Maudling had helped to secure the contract for the architect. The book has a foreword by Mr Paul Foot, editor of the left-wing *Socialist Worker*.

Mr Maudling said: "It's publication this week after the Granada programme is obviously part of a concerted plot by Paul Foot and his usual gang. Mr Paul Foot, who so far as I can recollect I have never met him, was conducting a personal vendetta against me for several years."

Mr Foot, nephew of Mr Michael Foot, Secretary of State for Employment, replied: "As far as a personal vendetta goes, I have never written anything personal about Mr Maudling. I have confined myself to writing about his public activities and his activities as far as they affect others."

I think Mr Maudling would better advised to try to explain to people why he associated with Mr Poulsen and Mr Hoffman (of the Real Estate Fund of America) rather than try to deflect attention from these matters, which are of public interest."

Granada said: "Michael Gillard wrote his book while he was working at the *Daily Express*. We knew when he had joined Granada that he had written the book and we were aware that its publication was being held up. He had nothing to do with the *World in Action* programme."

Mr Foot had nothing to do with *Business in Goso* either. We knew nothing about the intention to release the book to coincide with our programme."

The Real Estate Fund of America, which collapsed with a loss of \$100m to investors, was operated by Jerome Hoffman, who was later found guilty in New York of a mortgage swindle. Mr Hoffman's London solicitor, Lord Brentford, of the firm of Jonson-Hicks and Co, introduced Mr Maudling to the fund.

Mr Maudling said he received a letter from Lord Brentford in which Mr Hoffman was described as an old and valued client. He had accepted that statement. At that time Mr Maudling was a director of the city merchant banking firm of Kleinwort Benson. He resigned from the presidency of the Real Estate Fund of America after Kleinwort Benson had made inquiries about Mr Hoffman.

Mr Maudling said yesterday that he did not disagree with the book's assertion that he wrote to leading bankers he had met at international conferences while he was deputy leader of the Conservative Party in opposition.

He said he was president of the fund for two or three months and was trying to promote it during that time. "Had I thought the fund was a bad risk, I would not have been in it," he said.

Mr John Davies, a former Conservative Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said in Manchester that there was only a bleak prospect under the present Government for the industrial manager.

Anybody who knows anything about running industry knows full well that the last thing management are interested in is striking matches with their own labour or with the unions. Equally, they know that there has to be a kind of balance of power which allows free collective bargaining to be a reality, not just a carve-up."

Mr Robert Fisk, a former Conservative member of the House of Commons, said: "The only effective opposition in this Parliament is being provided by the Liberals. The Tories are not earning their keep. They are an expensive luxury for the taxpayer."

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Speaking at Roy

## HOME NEWS

## Probation officers to withhold social inquiry reports from courts until guilt is established

From Peter Evans  
Home Affairs Correspondent  
Weymouth

Probation officers voted yesterday to withhold social inquiry reports about persons appearing before courts until after guilt has been established. The decision, made at the annual conference of the National Association of Probation Officers here, could bring the officers into conflict with judges and, some officers feel, perhaps into contempt of court.

Probation officers believe the social inquiry reports are relevant only to the court's function of sentencing. The reports often contain reference to previous convictions, and could be prejudicial.

Mr Squire Lucas, West Riding, said: "We ought to protect judges from themselves. I do not know how a judge can differentiate between what he reads in a social inquiry report and what he hears in a case."

But Miss Enid Clarke, South Thames, opposing the motion, said judges were in possession of police anecdote reports during the hearing of cases. If

they also had social inquiry reports, it would help to balance matters.

Misgivings about proposals for dealing with young adult offenders have produced an emergency resolution to be debated today at the conference.

Some feel that new ways of supervising offenders in the community instead of in prison will mean probation officers becoming, in effect, too much like mobile prison officers.

The resolution arises from the expected content of a report of the Government's Advisory Council on the Penal System. Although first details were disclosed in *The Times* more than a year ago, its publication is still only "expected soon". There is some suspicion here that the Home Office has withheld it until after the conference.

Reports so far about the council's findings suggest there will be a custody and control order for young adults between 17 and 21, to replace custodial sentences to detention centre, borstal and imprisonment. Borstals and detention centres would be abolished and replaced by a

single system of penal establishments.

The sentence would be indefinite, presumably with fixed minimum and maximum periods. At any time during the period of sentence it would be possible for a prisoner to be released to "control under licence".

An article in *Probe*, an unofficial magazine run by an action group of probation officers, says that the second proposal, for a supervision and control order, has been known to them for some time. Members of the group do not like some of the implications of suggestions that will be a stronger non-custodial sentence than probation, and that it would be appropriate for offenders whom the courts at present sentence to a custodial measure but who could be allowed to remain in the community if subject to a greater degree of supervision and control.

Probation will continue to be available as well. The article goes on: "It is clearly stated that these new orders would be operated by probation officers.

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## Shipping Bill will end some Navy crimes

By Paul Routledge  
Labour Correspondent

The Government has conceded part of the trade union case for abolishing criminal offences which can be committed by seamen in the Merchant Navy.

Under the Merchant Shipping Bill, published yesterday, it will no longer be a crime to disobey certain orders or to be absent without leave when a ship sails.

The Bill differs from a similar one considered by Parliament before the election in repealing disciplinary measures contained in the Merchant Shipping Act, 1970.

A single case of disobedience to a lawful command will not be a criminal act unless the ship or lives are endangered, and seamen who miss their ship will not be liable to court proceedings. Both cases may still be dealt with by the ship's master under disciplinary regulations. Increased fines are proposed for other shipboard offences, including drunkenness.

Militants in the National Union of Seamen are examining a further concession, which confines the criminal offence of combining to disobey lawful commands to the high seas in order to see whether it will allow seamen to hold up a ship in port until wage demands have been met.

The Department of Trade is setting up working parties to carry out a review of discipline in the shipping and fishing industries, with special reference to drink and drugs.

## Woman sterilized by Nazis took away baby

From Our Correspondent  
Reading

A German-born woman who was said to have been sterilized by the Nazis during the last war for helping prisoners, took a baby from outside a hairdresser's shop on impulse, it was stated at Reading Crown Court, Berkshire, yesterday.

The child's mother saw the woman being pushed away, ran out of the shop and caught up with the woman, Marie Kaledzinski, aged 50, a married woman with no children.

Miss Kaledzinski, of Mead Avenue, Langley, Berkshire, pleaded guilty to taking away Jonathan Kirby, aged four and a half months, with intent to deprive his mother, Mrs Bridget Kirby, of the child, last February, at Meadow Road, Langley. She was given a 12 months' prison sentence suspended for two years, coupled with a supervision order.

## Oxford students' union owes pay

Oxford University students' union has debts of £150, including an overdraft of £150. The salary of its one full-time officer, the president, has not been paid for two weeks.

Mr Michael Sullivan, the president, said yesterday that until colleges paid their union subscriptions he would not be paid. Only two colleges had paid this term, he said, and last term about six did not pay at all.

## American girl 'knew nothing of guns'

Allison Thompson, aged 18, the American girl in the Heathrow airport guns plot trial, told a jury at the Central Criminal Court yesterday that before she left Los Angeles last Christmas she was promised: "You are going to have a New Year like you have never had it before." She said that turned out to be quite correct: she spent it in a British jail.

Until customs officers prised open the false bottom in her metal trunk at Heathrow airport, disclosing five pistols and ammunition in a secret cavity, she had no idea that the visit was in any way connected with a firearms certificate.

Mr el-Hakkaoui alone also denies conspiring to possess in the United Kingdom a firearm with intent to endanger life.

She has been interested in any kind of politics.

Miss Thompson, from Santa Barbara, California, Abdel Kbir el-Hakkaoui, a Moroccan, and Ather Naseem, a Pakistani, have all pleaded not guilty to two conspiracies, between July and December last year, with a man named Ted Brown and other persons.

The first charge alleges unlawful possession of firearms and ammunition by Mr el-Hakkaoui.

The second alleges his possession of firearms without a firearms certificate.

Mr el-Hakkaoui alone also denies conspiring to possess in the United Kingdom a firearm with intent to endanger life.

## Patients set up centre for cure of stammering

By John Roper  
Medical Reporter

A derelict store room in the grounds of an Oxford hospital, converted by patients into a treatment centre for stammering adults, is to be formally opened today.

The Apple House speech therapy unit at the Warneford Hospital will mark the emergence of a new charity, the Stammer Trust, to help to treat and sponsor research into an affliction which, it says, affects hundreds of thousands of adults.

In 1964 Dr Seymour Spencer, a consultant psychiatrist at the hospital, began a project aimed at helping adult stammerers. Patients from all over the country came for intensive training in a control system called "syllable timed speech".

They were also given psychotherapeutic treatment. Patients were admitted on condition that they returned weekly for refresher courses for three months.

The number of patients served the hospital's resources and two years ago a group of stammerers decided to convert the derelict store room into a treatment room, office and kitchen. The old apple store room became the Apple House.

It is seen as a national base and it is hoped to open other centres in different parts of the country with residential accommodation for patients. Later this month an appeal will be made to finance the project.

### Head of records firm cleared of corruption

Edward Kassner, head of President Records, was cleared of the Central Criminal Court yesterday of corruption at the BBC payroll trial. Mr Kassner, 52, of Weybourne Gardens, Bayswater, had denied agreeing to give £50 to Stephen Turner, a BBC television producer, to plug a record "Black-skinned blue-eyed boy" by the Equals pop group in the television show *Disco Tico*. He also denied conspiring with others to offer £50 to Mr Turner.

Judge McKinnon, QC, stopped the trial without calling on the defence and formally directed the jury to return not guilty verdicts. Then he discharged Mr Kassner and awarded him costs, including the costs of the committal proceedings. He said Mr Kassner left the court with an unblemished character.

## Inflation threatens litigation solicitors with ruin in year, meeting told

From Marcel Berlins  
Legal Correspondent

Solicitors in private practice handling civil litigation were in danger or ruin within a year because of inflation, Mr Jeffrey Gordon, chairman of the British Legal Association, said here yesterday.

Speaking at the annual meeting of the association, which represents more than 3,000 solicitors, Mr Gordon said civil cases took between one and three years to get to court. But par and overheads had to be financed over that period in money which was diminishing in value.

Mr Gordon condemned recent proposals which would take from private practitioners all but their most unremunerative work. Some of those calls were sincere, but others were "from jealousy and political malice from a motley crew of social engineers and politicians and would-be municipal traders".

"All this was once just tolerable. In days of hyper-inflation we should not put up with it. Litigation practices could face

ruin within a year if inflation proceeds at its present rate."

Mr Gordon pointed to privileges of trade unions and said: "Why cannot we be allowed to negotiate over our wages in time of civil litigation?"

He told the Bar not to be complacent about the plight of solicitors. Barristers thought they would go on in the same way for ever. But their position could fail overnight with that of solicitors.

"There is an even chance in the next decade that we will have fusion. Then what future is there for any independent legal profession?" Mr Gordon asked.

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Perhaps its members failed to realize that without an effective legal system there could be no civil rights, he said. But equally, the legal profession should demonstrate more than it had in the past that it was available to consult, advise and defend the nonconformist.

Mr Gordon condemned the time spent and the cost incurred in drawing up bills of costs for clients' fees. It often required more skill and time to do that than to run the case itself, he said.

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## OVERSEAS

## Israel minister forecasts success for Dr Kissinger's efforts to achieve agreement with Syria

From Moshe Brilliant  
Tel Aviv, May 10

Dr Henry Kissinger, the American Secretary of State, arrived from Egypt today and drove to Jerusalem to report to Mrs Meir, the Prime Minister, on his talks in Riyadh and Cairo. He is to proceed to Damascus on Sunday to continue his attempts to mediate a disengagement agreement between Israel and Syria.

A member of his entourage said there was greater optimism in the mission after the Cairo meetings with President Sadat. Meanwhile, on the northern front shelling continued and both sides used aircraft. Four Syrian aircraft attacked Israeli targets and Israel jets intermittently struck at areas in Lebanon where Arab terrorists are based.

Tel Aviv, May 10. Mr Vigal Allon, the Defence Minister, said here today that he would not be surprised if an agreement for a separation of forces between his country and Syria was achieved in the near future. The chances of agreement were better than they were a few weeks ago.

He told reporters: "I shall not be surprised if the efforts of Dr Kissinger will not have been in vain."

Mr Allon, speaking at Ben-Gurion airport before leaving for talks with Mr Wilson in London, said the Israel Government had determined a line

behind which it was prepared to stand in the framework of a separation of forces agreement.

"I do not expect that any further changes in this line are possible," he added. Mr Allon said his Government had learned from the American delegation that a basic development had taken place in the Syrians' thinking and that they were now prepared to reach an agreement with Israel.

"I cannot of course say, in view of the internal differences that exist among the Syrian leadership, whether this willingness will find an expression by agreeing to our proposals. However, the chances for such an agreement have definitely improved."

During his visit to London Mr Allon will attend memorial services for Mr Richard Crossman, a minister in the previous Labour Government and a staunch friend of Israel.

Dr Kissinger said today after 90 minutes of talks with Israeli leaders that he thought progress had been made. Mr Abba Eban, the Israel Foreign Minister, also said some progress had been made.

A crowd of several hundred massed outside Mrs Meir's residence while the talks were being held. Many were supporting 20 intellectuals who are on hunger strike in protest against any territorial concessions by Israel on the Golan Heights.

## US welcome for 'Wilson plan' on oil crisis

From Our Own Correspondent Washington, May 10

Mr Harold Lever, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, has been most encouraged by his reception in Washington. He has been discussing with American officials the steps which the industrialized world should take to save the world economy from serious difficulties caused by the rise in the price of oil.

The "Lever plan", otherwise known as the "Wilson plan", turns out to be a variant of the "Kissinger plan", announced at the Washington energy conference. For Mr Lever, who is the Prime Minister's adviser in economic matters, the main point of the plan, whoever its author, is its flexibility.

He believes that the intergovernmental agency which he suggests should be set up to buy oil from the oil producing countries, would control the immense flow of money round the world, give the producing countries a guaranteed price, by indexing it on some other commodity and thus protecting oil revenues against inflation, and would save the developing countries from collapse.

He believes that several of them face imminent disaster and that the same prospect faces some industrialized countries, with Italy probably on the top of the list. Unless something is done about it, an international catastrophe might come about.

## Shadow of freedom on Beira road

From Michael Knipe  
Beira, May 10

The still令人震惊的 wreckage of a long-distance bus, destroyed by Freilimba bombs and machine gun fire, was the latest grim evidence of the Mozambique guerrilla organization's response to the change of power in Lisbon.

I came across the wreckage in which six died yesterday, while travelling by road with two other correspondents from Lourenco Marques to Beira. The 800-mile road link between the two main cities is a vulnerable main artery and clearly a prime target of the rebels.

It passes along what is known here as "the coconut coast", a palm-fringed beach playground, which the Mozambique authorities have been preparing as a major tourist attraction. But today the neatly designed picnic spots with litter signs in English and Portuguese stand unused.

This thin line of trade and contact is popular for the first 300 miles northwards on either side by African mud hut kraals and dotted with a few sleepy Portuguese-style villages, with their elegantly decapitated architecture and Indian bazaars.

News of events in Lisbon and Lourenco Marques has spread along the road as swiftly as a bush fire. The road among many of the rural Africans, it seems, is that independence has actually arrived and soon they will reap the benefits.

At Inharrime, a river village 200 miles from Lourenco

Marques, an Indian woman running a general store said: "They think independence has been declared. Some are already deciding who will take over my shop."

They say: "Why should we work on the roads now? independence is here."

The Indian woman's impressions may be distorted by the stories she has heard from elsewhere in Africa.

Rural Africans themselves are reticent but they clearly see the change as a turn for the better. According to an American Protestant missionary, the Africans are hopeful that the change will bring them greater freedom and improved living standards.

How much latent sympathy was there among Africans for Freilimba? In the view of most of them and of others with close contacts with the guerrilla organization, Freilimba was synonymous with nationalism and commanded an immense, if latent sympathy. Only fear kept it below the surface, said one European.

Whatever the sympathies of the Africans, they result in little obvious racial tensions along the Lourenco Marques-Beira road. At petrol stations and in stores, cafes and bars Africans continue to mix easily with whites and the sight—so strange in southern Africa—of whites and blacks eating in the same restaurants is still commonplace.

It was just four days before the Lisbon coup that Freilimba guerrillas attacked the road for

the first time in their most southern military action. In two separate incidents they killed three lorry drivers.

According to a South African couple running a hotel at Maxixe, a tiny coastal village where dowses continue to play a modest trade, the incident was an isolated one.

A hunting party went out and got six of the terrorists, said the wife dispassionately. "We don't expect any further trouble."

The following day, however, sipping coconut juice at a roadside store we heard of the attack on the coach.

At the Save river our car joined a convoy of 20 vehicles guarded by a detachment of black uniformed African militia. This part of the journey took us through a virtually depopulated 200-mile stretch of thick bush land, divided into several hunting concession areas. It is perfect

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At the Save river our car joined a convoy of 20 vehicles guarded by a detachment of black uniformed African militia. This part of the journey took us through a virtually depopulated 200-mile stretch of thick bush land, divided into several hunting concession areas. It is perfect

target of the rebels.

It passes along what is known here as "the coconut coast", a palm-fringed beach playground, which the Mozambique authorities have been preparing as a major tourist attraction. But today the neatly designed picnic spots with litter signs in English and Portuguese stand unused.

This thin line of trade and

contact is popular for the first 300 miles northwards on either side by African mud hut kraals and dotted with a few sleepy Portuguese-style villages, with their elegantly decapitated architecture and Indian bazaars.

News of events in Lisbon and Lourenco Marques has spread along the road as swiftly as a bush fire. The road among many of the rural Africans, it seems, is that independence has actually arrived and soon they will reap the benefits.

At Inharrime, a river village 200 miles from Lourenco

Marques, an Indian woman running a general store said: "They think independence has been declared. Some are already deciding who will take over my shop."

They say: "Why should we work on the roads now? independence is here."

The Indian woman's impressions may be distorted by the stories she has heard from elsewhere in Africa.

Rural Africans themselves are reticent but they clearly see the change as a turn for the better. According to an American Protestant missionary, the Africans are hopeful that the change will bring them greater freedom and improved living standards.

How much latent sympathy was there among Africans for Freilimba? In the view of most of them and of others with close contacts with the guerrilla organization, Freilimba was synonymous with nationalism and commanded an immense, if latent sympathy. Only fear kept it below the surface, said one European.

Whatever the sympathies of the Africans, they result in little obvious racial tensions along the Lourenco Marques-Beira road. At petrol stations and in stores, cafes and bars Africans continue to mix easily with whites and the sight—so strange in southern Africa—of whites and blacks eating in the same restaurants is still commonplace.

It was just four days before the Lisbon coup that Freilimba guerrillas attacked the road for

the first time in their most southern military action. In two separate incidents they killed three lorry drivers.

According to a South African couple running a hotel at Maxixe, a tiny coastal village where dowses continue to play a modest trade, the incident was an isolated one.

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## KHRUSHCHEV MEMOIRS

# Soviet leaders must always keep a bit between teeth of the military

With authorization of Time magazine, exclusive to The Times

Now that I'm no longer active, I can't help noticing from my position as a pensioner that the economizing trend we started seems to have been reversed, that now money is being wasted on unnecessary items and categories, and that this new trend of military overspending is putting a pinch on some of the more important, but still underfinanced, areas of our country's life. However, I'm isolated from the world, and I should speak only about what I know. I know that the capitalists were the first to form a military alliance after the war and that we were the first to propose the dissolution of the two opposing alliances, Nato and the Warsaw Pact. We should continue to press towards that goal.

Meanwhile, we should keep in mind that it's the size of our nuclear missile arsenal, and not the size of our army, that counts. The infantry has become, so to speak, not the muscle, but the brain of the armed forces. There are the now-powerful of the army should be reduced to an absolute minimum. The fewer people we have in the armed forces, the more people we will have available for other, more productive kinds of work. This realization would be a good common point of departure for the progressive forces of the world in their struggle for peaceful coexistence.

Sticking to the matter of our relations with the West, I'd also favour on-site inspection at military bases, especially airfields. It's essential that airfields be open to inspection, so that neither side could concentrate troop transports for a sneak attack. We're afraid of a surprise attack by our enemies just as much as they are, and such an attack by us. We need a system of inspection as much as they do. In short, I would like to see us sign a mutual treaty through standard intelligence-gathering means.

But, what about espionage? The Americans proposed certain arms control measures to which we could not agree. I'm thinking now about their insistence that a treaty include a provision for on-site inspection anywhere in our country. In general, the idea of arms control was acceptable to us. Zhukov, who was the Defence Minister at the time, and I agreed in principle to on-site inspection of the border regions and to airborne reconnaissance of our territory up to a certain distance inside our borders, but

we couldn't allow the United States and its allies to send their inspectors criss-crossing around the Soviet Union. They would have discovered that we were in a relatively weak position, and that realization might have encouraged them to attack us. However, all that has changed.

While it might still be true that the United States has a quantitative advantage over us—and that Nato has a quantitative advantage of the Warsaw Pact—in terms of total accumulated means of destruction, we no longer lag behind to any significant degree.

Therefore, I think there is no longer any reason for us to resist the idea of international control. It had any influence on the policy of the Soviet Union, I could urge that we sign a mutual agreement providing for more extensive inspection than was possible when Zhukov and I deliberated. More specifically, I would favour on-site inspection in designated parts of the country around our frontiers. (When I talk about our frontiers, I'm talking about our western borders. I'm putting aside the problem of our eastern borders because we have a special situation there with China. The pathological hatred of the Chinese for the Soviet Union and our ideological line makes an understanding with them impossible for me to imagine.)

Sticking to the matter of our relations with the West, I'd also favour on-site inspection at all military bases, especially airfields. It's essential that airfields be open to inspection, so that neither side could concentrate troop transports for a sneak attack. We're afraid of a surprise attack by our enemies just as much as they are, and such an attack by us. We need a system of inspection as much as they do. In short, I would like to see us sign a mutual treaty through standard intelligence-gathering means.

Naturally, we don't want to undress all the way and stand before Nato inspectors as naked as Adam. Perhaps in the first stage of an arms control agreement, we could extend inspection to all our defence plants but allow the inspectors to see only the first products as they come off the line, without letting them subject our hardware to technical analysis. That way, we could keep secret the design of certain weapons. Such an arrangement would necessarily be temporary, but it might give us time to work out other more far-reaching agreements to prevent World War III.

Khrushchev's grave in Moscow. A picture taken this year.

Besides, I was never too impressed by our ability to keep secrets from the enemy. I once asked Comrade Malenkov why the latest data about our army and weaponry was always turning up in the foreign press.

"What's going on here?" I said. "There's a spy in our General Staff or what?"

He shrugged his shoulders and replied: "I can't say for sure, but I think the enemy must keep track of what we're doing through standard intelligence-gathering means."

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Up until now, I've hesitated to mention my thoughts on extending arms control over rocket technology and the deployment of warheads. You

should say I've been saving the subject for dessert. Missiles, of course, are the most destructive means of all—and, I don't care whether you call them offensive or defensive. I believe that until we have established mutual trust with our current adversaries, our ICBMs must be kept in readiness as our major deterrent. It would be to hope that through standard intelligence-gathering means.

Naturally, we don't want to undress all the way and stand before Nato inspectors as naked as Adam. Perhaps in the first stage of an arms control agreement, we could extend inspection to all our defence plants but allow the inspectors to see only the first products as they come off the line, without letting them subject our hardware to technical analysis. That way, we could keep secret the design of certain weapons. Such an arrangement would necessarily be temporary, but it might give us time to work out other more far-reaching agreements to prevent World War III.

What if the capitalists drag their feet in agreeing to disarmament? I certainly know from my own experience how difficult it is to get them to agree on anything. I believe that even if a Soviet-American agreement on bilateral reduction in military spending were impossible, we

should go ahead and sharply reduce our own expenditures unilaterally.

If our enemies want to go on inflating their military budgets, spending their money right and left on all kinds of senseless things, then they'll be sure to lower the living standards of their own people. By so doing, they will be unwittingly strengthening the position of the Communist and progressive forces in their own midst, enabling them to cry out in a still louder voice against the reactionary forces of monopolistic capital.

If we are unilateral to curtail the accumulation of military means, we would be demonstrating that in socialist countries the interests of the people and government are one and the same, while in capitalist countries the government represents only the interests of those who produce the means of destruction. Our good example will be noticed by the working class in capitalist countries, and it will give fighters for peace a chance to conduct mass propaganda in their countries.

By taking the initiative in scaling down the arms race, we will also appeal to the intelligentsia in the West and all over the world. Of course, I know we're not going to appeal to Senator Barry Goldwater. I'm operating on the assumption that the United States isn't made up solely of Goldwaters. Even among capitalists there are honest intellectuals, people of different religions, different social strata, and different levels of wealth, all united in the struggle to maintain peace among the nations.

We should be careful not to idolize the military. Among the military in the socialist countries you can find people who tend to regard the defence establishment as a higher caste. It is important to keep such people in check.

The military is prone to temptations; it is prone to indulge in irresponsible daydreaming and bragging. Given a chance, some elements within the military might try to force a militarist policy on the government. Therefore the government must always keep a bit between the teeth of the military.

When I say "the government" I mean the collective leadership, and I stress the word collective. There must, of course, be an outlet for individuality. Individual initiative must be able to express itself. But the decisions which guide and influence our Soviet State ought to be made collectively.

When I was the head of the government and also held the highest post in the Central Committee, I never made a decision on my own, without consulting and securing the approval of my comrades in the leadership. The conditions were such that it was impossible for one man to dictate his will to the others; I was in favour of those conditions, and I did my best to retain them.

I also did my best to resist the counsel of those who can't stop shouting, "We'll wipe them out!" There are those who don't seem able to get it into their heads that in the next war the victor will be barely distinguishable from the vanquished.

All right, I know people will say, "Khrushchev is in a panic over the possibility of war." I am not. I've always been against war, but at the same time I've always realized full well that fear of nuclear war on the part of a country's leaders can paralyse that country's defences. And if a country's defences are paralysed, then war really is inevitable.

Besides, what kind of panic would you expect from a man my age? I'm nearly 77 years old. As they say, I'm no longer on my way to the fair—I started many years my ticket has left to run! Everything I've said is in my memoirs. I say as a Communist who wants a more enlightened Communist society—not for myself, because my time has already come and gone, but for my friends and for my people in the future.

Concluded.

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aw Report May 10 1974

Queen's Bench Division

## Juried trial a breach of natural justice

gina v Thames Magistrates' Court, Ex parte Polemis, Mr. Justice Wigdery, Lord Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Ashworth and Justice Bristow. Judgment delivered May 8.

Judgment for magistrates on indications for adjournment was given by Lord Wigdery. The Court was given an order of adjournment to the conviction of a Greek master on the ground that he had been in breach of the idea of natural justice in that he had not been given reasonable time to prepare his case.

However, the master was convicted on a summons allegation that he had been in breach of the idea of natural justice in that he had not been given reasonable time to prepare his case.

Mr. Justice Wigdery, Lord Justice Bristow and Justice Ashworth delivered judgment on May 8.

Mr. Justice Wigdery said that the prosecution evidence showed that the berth was clean but that there was a large patch of oil which it was suspected had been discharged from the bilges of the vessel. On the morning of July 19, 1973, a witness gave evidence to the docked oil in the bilges of the same type. The application was served at 10.30 am and with a summons returnable at the same day.

Mr. Justice Wigdery said that the master was not given reasonable time to prepare his case before presentation. Allocating

one hour to the prosecution

and one hour to the defence

was not reasonable.

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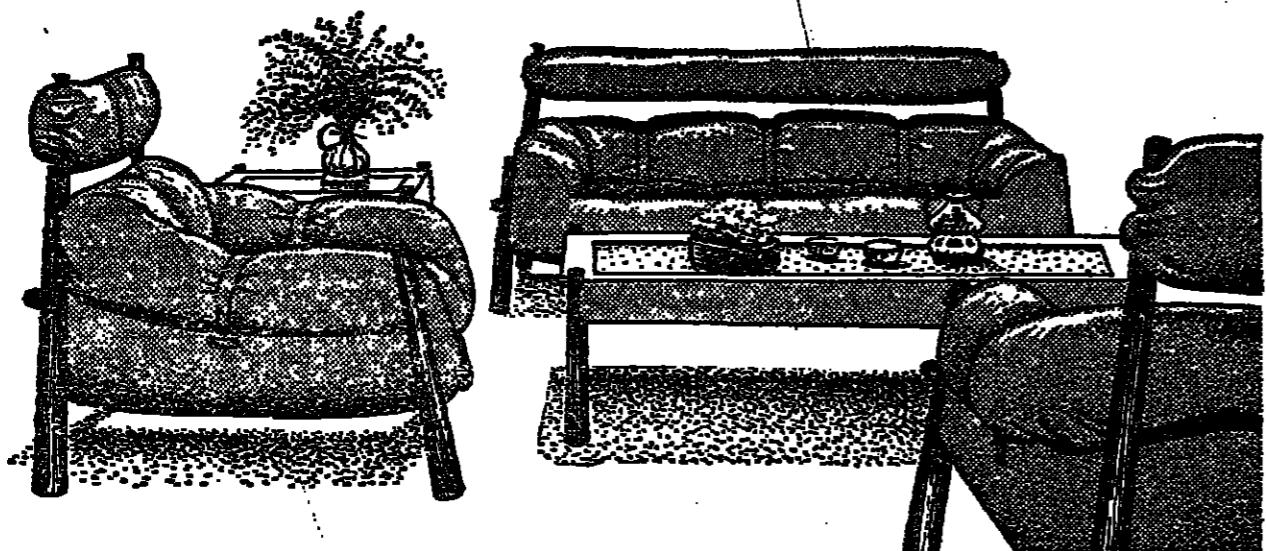
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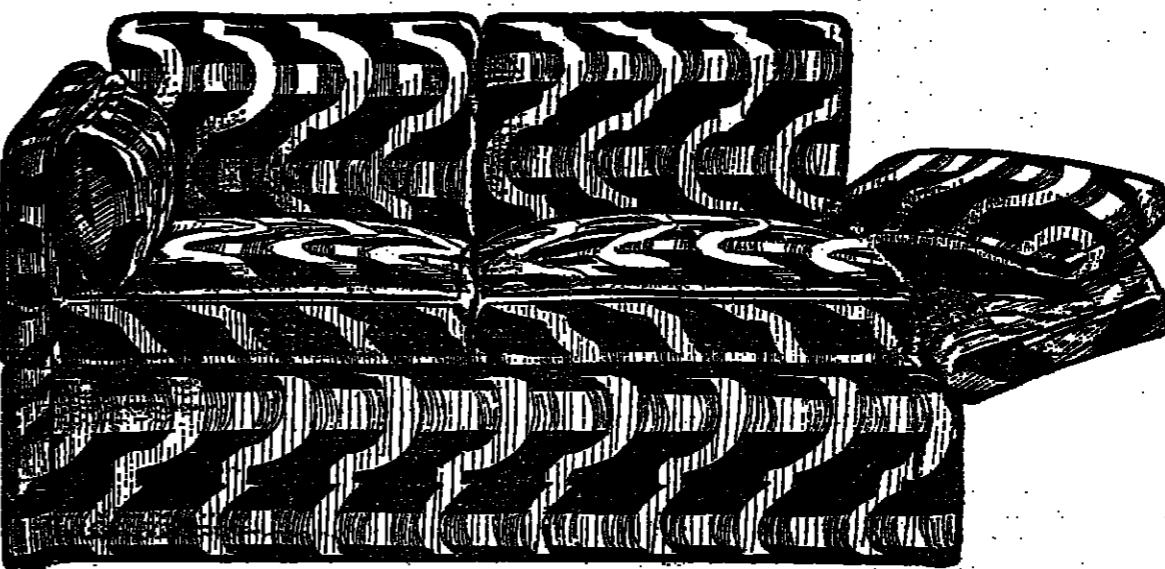
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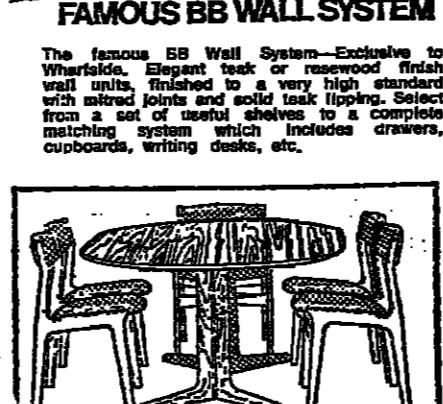
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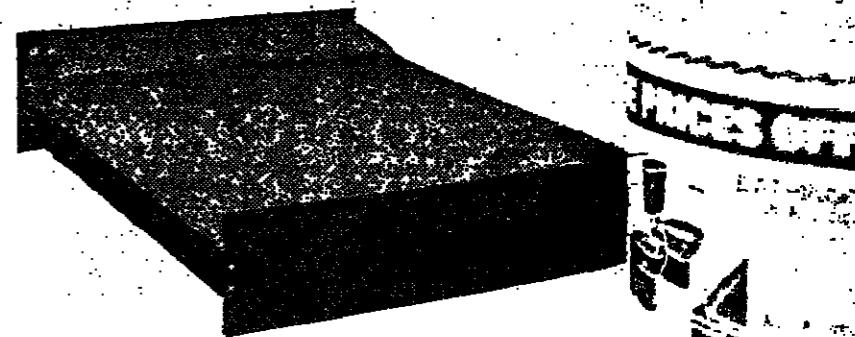


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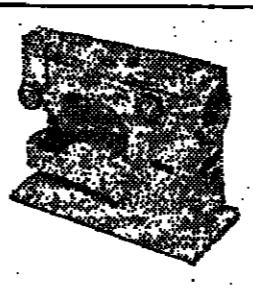


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## The case for impeachment

continued from opposite page

The Ervin Committee provided the opportunity for the Watergate men to defend themselves with the assistance of counsel. The Grand Juries, another part of the Anglo-American past which has survived, only in the United States, have worked diligently and soberly. Above all, Judge Sirica of the United States District Court of the District of Columbia has earned the admiration of his peers on both sides of the Atlantic.

The Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives, which must prepare the case for impeachment, has acted with propriety and decorum. There has been no conflict between majority and minority counsel. In the preliminary proceedings, justice has been done and seen to be done.

The importance of this cannot be exaggerated, given the respect of the American majority for the office of the Presidency and their reluctance to remove the incumbent. They must be shown, if the evidence demands it, that there is no alternative to impeachment proceedings. Finally the evidence must be conclusive if they are to agree, each in his own language and imagery, with Barbara Tuchman if the Presidency and indeed the Republic is to escape irreparable damage. In a foreword to a recent book she wrote:

"What it comes down to is what Macaulay in his essay on Milton called 'the great Constitutional question'. The question, he wrote, was this: 'Had Charles the First broken the fundamental laws of England? No person can answer in the negative, unless he refuses credit, not merely to all the accusations brought against Charles by his opponents, but to the narratives of the warmest Royalists and to the confessions of the King himself'. The other side asks, he continues, 'could not the Parliament have adopted some measure milder than regicide?—the same question now being asked about impeachment. Macaulay's answer was: 'They could not trust the King'."

The constitutional references to impeachment are as follows:

Article I, Section 2. The House of Representatives shall have the sole power of

impeachment.

Article I, Section 3. The Senate shall have the sole power to try all impeachments. When sitting for that purpose, they shall be on oath or affirmation. When the President of the United States is tried, the Chief Justice will preside; and no person shall be convicted without the concurrence of two-thirds of the members present.

Judgment in cases of impeachment shall not extend further than "removal from office and disqualification to hold and enjoy any office of honour, trust or profit under the United States; but the party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to indictment, trial, judgment and punishment, according to the law."

Article II, Section 2. The

President shall have power to grant reprieves and pardons for offences against the United States, except in cases of impeachment.

Article II, Section 4. The President, Vice-President and all civil officers of the United States shall be removed from office or impeached for, and conviction of, treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanours.

Article III, Section 2. The trial of all crimes, except in cases of impeachment, shall be by jury.

The Constitution leaves much unaided, but the procedure is well established. The business of the House of Representatives is governed by *Hinds' Precedents*, the third volume of which contains 727 pages on impeachment. The Senate is guided by *Senate Procedure, Precedents and Practices*, and can also refer to the official verbation report of the impeachment trial of Andrew Johnson, which with commentaries runs to 1,640 pages.

The House acts as a grand jury. It debates the bill of particulars, the report of the evidence, and the impeachment report issued by the Judiciary Committee, and then proceeds to draw up the articles of impeachment should the resolution be approved. As a Committee of the Whole, it

then votes on each article and amendments. The final vote, which again is carried or defeated by simple majority, is on the impeachment or indictment.

In the event of the impeachment of President Nixon, a committee of two would present to the Senate to address its President *pro tempore* thus: "Mr President, in obedience to the order of the House of Representatives, we appear before you and in the name of the House of Representatives and of all the people of the United States, we do impeach Richard M. Nixon, President of the United States, of high crimes and misdemeanours in office."

The Senate conducts the trial, with the Chief Justice of the United States as the presiding officer. It rules on all motions concerning procedure and evidence, but his rulings can be appealed and overruled by a simple majority. The Sergeant-at-Arms then proceeds to the White House and summons the President to appear, but he can choose to refuse and be represented by counsel.

The prosecution is led by a delegation of managers from the House, and opening statements are made by one of them and the chief defence counsel. Witnesses are then called and examined and cross-examined

as in any trial. The jurors are the Senators, but they can put questions to the witnesses in writing and through the managers. Two prosecution managers and two defence lawyers make the final arguments. Conviction requires the vote of two-thirds of those present.

The Senators are polled separately. Again, in the event of President Nixon being impeached, Chief Justice Berger is expected to use the term of words of his predecessor who presided over the Johnson trial.

"Mr Senator, how say you? Is the respondent, Richard M. Nixon, President of the United States, guilty or not guilty of high crimes and misdemeanours as charged in these articles of impeachment?"

In the event of conviction, the Chief Justice would order the respondent "to be removed from office and forever disqualify from holding and enjoying any office of honour, trust or profit under the United States".

To that extent impeachment and trial would be guided and dignified by tradition and precedent but neither clearly defines high crimes and misdemeanours. One powerful argument likely to be used by the defence is that the respondent must be found guilty of a criminal offence, a breach of the common or statute law.

Judge Halsted Ritter, who was impeached and tried in 1936, was acquitted of a criminal charge of evasion of income tax. He was then convicted under Article VII of his impeachment, which charged that the consequence of his conduct

was "to bring his Court into scandal and disrepute, to the prejudice of said court and public confidence in the administration of justice".

There are counter arguments no less powerful in that they are believed to reflect the majority view of those who framed the Constitution. Benjamin Butler, one of the House managers in the Johnson impeachment, defined an impeachable offence as "One in its nature or consequence subversive of some fundamental or essential principle of government, or highly prejudicial to the public interest... a violation of the Constitution, or law, of an official oath or of duty..."

Berger reports that the great preponderance of authority regards "high crimes and misdemeanours" as not confined to criminal conduct. He also quotes Blackstone's definition of "High misdemeanour" as mal-administration. The assumption among constitutional lawyers today is that in the event of President Nixon's impeachment the Ritter case will provide the more persuasive precedent.

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was "to bring his Court into scandal and disrepute, to the prejudice of said court and public confidence in the administration of justice".

The assumption may be well founded, but will not necessarily be accepted by defence counsel without a fight. Again, much will depend upon the evidence and the conduct of the impeachment. The latter could be all important, if only because of the definition of an impeachable offence given by Vice-President Gerald Ford, when he became the House Minority Leader in 1970. He sought the impeachment of Justice William Douglas of the Supreme Court.

He defined it as "whatever a majority of the House of Representatives considers it to be at a given moment in history; conviction results from whatever offences two-thirds of the other body considers to be sufficiently serious to require removal of the accused from office".

This was a brutal misrepresentation. It was also an affront to the Constitution because the ultimate power he claimed for Congress was alien to the system, designed to separate the limit power of Mr Ford's definition. It has been remonstrated, nevertheless, and has aroused latent fears that the impeachment and trial of a President would be a political trial in the worst sense of the term, that Congress would again be the kangaroo court it was in 1936. It was all the more potentially damaging because impeachment cannot be anything but political.

The 435 Members of the House of Representatives and the 100 Senators may all be good men and true. Certainly the vast majority have been careful not to express an opinion since the impeachment of President Nixon became a possibility. The Democratic majority, most nevertheless, has impeached men somewhat differently than do the Republicans. They would not be human, or politicians, if they did not see some political advantage in the conviction of a Republican President.

In fact, the differences do not have to work against the President. The Democrats in the House can impeach him because only a simple majority is required, but in the Senate they do not have sufficient strength alone to ensure the two-thirds majority required for conviction. The President could not be removed from office if the Senate voted along strict party lines.

Whether or not this Congressional arithmetic is understood by the American majority remains to be seen, but after all the calculations are made and said the House of Representatives will soon have to decide to impeach or not to impeach. The consequences either way will be traumatic, but so far the American majority must know that their King-President is not the victim of regisical forces. That knowledge will stand them in good stead when the final decision is made.

*"Impeachment: The Constitutional Problems," Harvard University Press.*

*"They could not trust the King," by Stanley Tretick and William Shannan, Macmillan, New York, \$12.95.*

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## Clive Barnes

### All the news

all over the world. Both stations offer television news at its best, with a terseness and immediacy that is most impressive, and none of the self-conscious jokiness and triviality that is the bane of newscasting on British television.

The new two-hour show is the direct result of failing audiences for NBC's seven o'clock news. NBC in its local news had fallen in New York to a poor third runner to first ABC 10th channel—but the quality is often deplorable—feeble game shows, sudsy soap operas, inconsequential talk shows. Public television, un-sponsored and supported by grants, gifts and subscriptions from individual viewers, does a fairly good job. At present it has an interesting series of productions from the American theatres across the country, and it takes a great deal of its material from British television.

There is money and prestige in news. If people are turned to a specific newscast at seven o'clock there is a chance that they will remain with that channel all evening. But it seems that the real point to get people switching on and not switching over is with the local news before seven o'clock. Hence the grim battle of the newscasters.

This battle has not produced any better news coverage on the whole. Rather the reverse. It is preferable in London that the *Daily Mirror* sells more copies than *The Times*. Equally running its news programme from 5 pm until 7.30–10 minutes of non-stop news, comment and features, broken only by the mercenary clink of commercial messages.

To understand this, it is necessary to understand the American love of news. American newscasters are, generally speaking, much larger than those in Europe. When the *New York Times* announces its intention to print "all the news that's fit to print", it means all major international speeches, statements and documents are printed in full. As soon as President Nixon released the transcripts of certain of the Watergate tapes, the *New York Times* promptly started to print them in their entirety. This interest in news is typical.

In this context then, the idea of a 24-hour television news programme every night is not so outlandish. But how do you find out? We are now finding out.

The first two hours consists almost entirely of local news. There is also a lot of weather reporting (in detail such as only a meteorologist's mount could love), a lot of sports reports and talk, and the latest Dow Jones average being flashed up on the screen at the drop of a point.

This two-hour segment of local news is followed by the usual half-hour of NBC network news, with its current anchorman, John Chancellor. Like CBS news, with Walter Cronkite, this is a very fine news programme, with thoughtful comment and hard news from the advertising spots.

There is never time to deal thoroughly with anything. Newspapers realize this. Indeed the *New York Times* has a cheeky advertisement it puts out on the 11 o'clock news of all these networks. It says "If there's something that interested you in the news tonight, you can read about it tomorrow morning in the *New York Times*".

Yet undoubtedly more and more people are getting their major news reports from television and, because its responsibility and credibility become extremely important. At present the networks and smaller news services do a good job—but the temptation to do a worse job and acquire larger viewing figures must be difficult to resist.

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### Chess

### Great spirits

In Hazlitt's delightful piece *Of Persons one would wish to have seen* Charles Lamb asks for Sir Thomas Browne and Fulke Greville. This is a strange choice since, while the shadowy figure of Fulke Greville does have the great advantage of having been a friend of Sir Philip Sidney's, he is otherwise of little interest and I should have thought we had ample opportunity of meeting Sir Thomas Browne in his writings.

If we extend the idea to chess, then clearly it is best first of all to define its aim. We do not necessarily want to see the great figures, it is a proper source of the imagination for example, to summon up that great founder of modern chess, Wilhelm Steinitz. We can see him thundering in print against Leopold Hoffer or Zukertort when in the full prime of his career. And it is all too easy to hear him when nearing the end of that career, saying in broken tones at the Hastings 1893 Tournament: "They are all beating me now, even my pupils".

I must admit to a great curiosity about Zukertort. What would like to see him in? Only to inquire where exactly he obtained his medical degree and which was the battlefield and in what obscure war he fought with such self-confessed gallantry.

There does exist, above all, one extraordinary person whom I would have longed to have seen. This is the man, or woman, who invented the game of chess some 15 centuries ago. I think it was one man, rather than a collection of individuals, and, of course, there is also the chance that it was "that not impossible she" who opened this particular Pandora's box.

After that I would perhaps give preference to seeing Pallidov. It would be instructive to learn if he really meant all that about poker being the soul of chess or whether we had not tended to distort his ideas by giving them a modern twist.

Then there is Charousek. Did he really copy out that vast tome of Silgures and so was it any more use to him than the flood of modern chess literature on the openings to our present generation of masters? Or Harry Nelson Pillsbury. Was that surprise move he was supposed to have kept in reserve for Emanuel Lasker all those years really so prepared or did he merely produce it over the board? But most of all I would like to see Julius Breyer and ask him if he did say that "after

White (Olafsson) to play  
1.P-K4... P-Q4 2.B-Q3... P-Q5  
3.Q-B5... P-Q6 4.Q-B6... P-Q7  
5.Q-B7... P-Q8 6.Q-B8... P-Q9  
7.Q-B9... P-Q10 8.Q-B10... P-Q11  
9.Q-B11... P-Q12 10.Q-B12... P-Q13  
11.Q-B13... P-Q14 12.Q-B14... P-Q15  
13.Q-B15... P-Q16 14.Q-B16... P-Q17  
15.Q-B17... P-Q18 16.Q-B18... P-Q19  
17.Q-B19... P-Q20 18.Q-B20... P-Q21  
19.Q-B21... P-Q22 20.Q-B22... P-Q23  
21.Q-B23... P-Q24 22.Q-B24... P-Q25  
23.Q-B25... P-Q26 24.Q-B26... P-Q27  
25.Q-B27... P-Q28 26.Q-B28... P-Q29  
27.Q-B29... P-Q30 28.Q-B30... P-Q31  
29.Q-B31... P-Q32 30.Q-B32... P-Q33  
31.Q-B33... P-Q34 32.Q-B34... P-Q35  
33.Q-B35... P-Q36 34.Q-B36... P-Q37  
35.Q-B37... P-Q38 36.Q-B38... P-Q39  
37.Q-B39... P-Q40 38.Q-B40... P-Q41  
39.Q-B41... P-Q42 40.Q-B42... P-Q43  
41.Q-B43... P-Q44 42.Q-B44... P-Q45  
43.Q-B45... P-Q46 44.Q-B46... P-Q47  
45.Q-B47... P-Q48 46.Q-B48... P-Q49  
47.Q-B49... P-Q50 48.Q-B50... P-Q51  
49.Q-B51... P-Q52 50.Q-B52... P-Q53  
51.Q-B53... P-Q54 52.Q-B54... P-Q55  
53.Q-B55... P-Q56 54.Q-B56... P-Q57  
55.Q-B57... P-Q58 56.Q-B58... P-Q59  
57.Q-B59... P-Q60 58.Q-B60... P-Q61  
59.Q-B61... P-Q62 60.Q-B62... P-Q63  
61.Q-B63... P-Q64 62.Q-B64... P-Q65  
63.Q-B65... P-Q66 64.Q-B66... P-Q67  
65.Q-B67... P-Q68 66.Q-B68... P-Q69  
67.Q-B69... P-Q70 68.Q-B70... P-Q71  
69.Q-B71... P-Q72 70.Q-B72... P-Q73  
71.Q-B73... P-Q74 72.Q-B74... P-Q75  
73.Q-B75... P-Q76 74.Q-B76... P-Q77  
75.Q-B77... P-Q78 76.Q-B78... P-Q79  
77.Q-B79... P-Q80 78.Q-B80... P-Q81  
79.Q-B81... P-Q82 80.Q-B82... P-Q83  
81.Q-B83... P-Q84 82.Q-B84... P-Q85  
83.Q-B85... P-Q86 84.Q-B86... P-Q87  
85.Q-B87... P-Q88 86.Q-B88... P-Q89  
87.Q-B89... P-Q90 88.Q-B90... P-Q91  
89.Q-B91... P-Q92 90.Q-B92... P-Q93  
91.Q-B93... P-Q94 92.Q-B94... P-Q95  
93.Q-B95... P-Q96 94.Q-B96... P-Q97  
95.Q-B97... P-Q98 96.Q-B98... P-Q99  
97.Q-B99... P-Q100 98.Q-B100... P-Q101  
99.Q-B101... P-Q102 100.Q-B102... P-Q103  
101.Q-B103... P-Q104 102.Q-B104... P-Q105  
103.Q-B105... P-Q106 104.Q-B106... P-Q107  
105.Q-B107... P-Q108 106.Q-B108... P-Q109  
107.Q-B109... P-Q110 108.Q-B110... P-Q111  
109.Q-B111... P-Q112 110.Q-B112... P-Q113  
111.Q-B113... P-Q114 112.Q-B114... P-Q115  
113.Q-B115... P-Q116 114.Q-B116... P-Q117  
115.Q-B117... P-Q118 116.Q-B118... P-Q119  
117.Q-B119... P-Q120 118.Q-B120... P-Q121  
119.Q-B121... P-Q122 120.Q-B122... P-Q123  
121.Q-B123... P-Q124 122.Q-B124... P-Q125  
123.Q-B125... P-Q126 124.Q-B126...





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THE TIMES SATURDAY REVIEW MAY 11 1974

Two major exhibitions opened this week, one in London, and the other in Brighton.

Jeffery Daniels discusses 'George III, Collector and Patron'

at the Queen's Gallery. William Gaunt has been to Brighton, where this year the

Festival has turned its eyes towards the sea.

## A kinder view of George III

The new exhibition, at the Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace, draws attention to an unfamiliar aspect of a monarch often dismissed as an obstinate booby in his youth and a pathetic wreck in old age: *George III, Collector and Patron* includes not only paintings and drawings but furniture, clocks, porcelain, silver, scientific instruments, books, miniatures and gems either collected or commissioned by him, mostly in the first 25 years of his immensely long reign (1760-1820).

When George succeeded his grandfather George II, he immediately gave political power to his mentor and idol the Earl of Bute, whose younger brother, James Stuart Macclesfield, was the intermediary in the purchase in 1762 of the collection of paintings, drawings, books and gems belonging to Joseph Smith, British Consul in Venice. This acquisition, by far the most important he made, included no fewer than 50 paintings by Canaletto, several of which are exhibited, notably the superb *Piazzetta towards the Torre dell'Orologio*, painted in the free, fluid manner of the artist's earliest works, which can be seen already beginning to harden in the two smaller views also on show, although these probably date from only a few years later.

The brave but meaningless formality of eighteenth-century Venetian public life, embodied in the imperious figure of the red-robed, bewigged senator in the foreground of the view of the Piazzetta, has its counterpart in Pietro Longhi's subtly disparaging scenes of the aristocracy at home: the vaguely titillating languor of the young couple in *The Morning Levee* evokes a life-style based on a desperate search for pleasure which could even comprehend the absurdity of *Blind Man's Buff*, among whose exquisitely dressed participants is an obsequious young abbe, who coyly holds up his cassock while preserving his deferential smile. The carefully painted detail in this delightful pair of pictures reinforces the impact of the social comment by which Longhi, unlike his English contemporary Hogarth, never

made three years later to a design by Sir William Chambers, apparently modified by the king himself. His taste in furniture tended to favour a combination of utility with monumentality, as in William Vile's magnificent Bookcase supplied in 1762 to accommodate the ever-increasing library he was amassing, and which at his death numbered some 67,000 books.

His queen Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Schönhausen liked more obviously decorative furniture, and in the same year Vile made

for her a jewel cabinet of oak and mahogany, veneered with

taffwood, ebony, rosewood and ivory, which, as the catalogue entry rightly states, ranks among the finest pieces of furniture made in England in the mid-eighteenth century.

The *Novy* (new) in the *rezzane* (rooms) of the *Palazzo Reale* at Turin, which may have had an Italian or Indian-trained craftsman in his workshop.

Barely 20 years later (1781) William Gates made the pair of semi-circular cabinets of oak and pine, veneered with satinwood, tulipwood and purple-wood and inlaid with a design of vases and arabesques in a fully evolved Neoclassical style for his apartment at Buxton House, the residence of George III, the future Regent (1811) and George IV (1820). Although commissioned by his father, it is tempting to see in these cabinets the incipient

among which is the score of Handel's oratorio, *Lept*.

Handel was the king's favorite composer and the exhibition includes Roubiliac's bust of as well as a harpsichord which traditionally belonged to Handel. Designs Chambers and Cipriani for State Coach (still in use) and Robert Adam, again with Ciani, for *Illuminations at Buxton House* give some idea of the fever of artistic activity which must have surrounded young king in the years immediately after his accession.

It is true that his taste was less sophisticated than his eldest son, and that on whole he liked what he knew but nevertheless George III emerges from this carefully selected, well arranged and overpoweringly large exhibition as a more sympathetic character than Dr. Plumb's "umbrella man of low intelligence" who engraved as such by J. B. Jackson.

In the upper gallery itself a number of superb Italian drawings are displayed, as well as silver, books and manuscripts, lead one to expect.

Jeffery Dan

Such artificiality was not to

George III's own taste, and even in the decoration of his apartments he preferred simplicity to profusion, although the astronomical clock for which he had a passion were encased in magnificence structures of rare wood decorated with gilt, bronze, like the Baroque

(1765) devised for him by Adam under Chambers or the Four-sided Astronomical Clock, made three years later to a design by Sir William Chambers, apparently modified by the king himself. His taste in furniture tended to favour a combination of utility with monumentality, as in William Vile's magnificent Bookcase supplied in 1762 to accommodate the ever-increasing library he was amassing, and which at his death numbered some 67,000 books.

His queen Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Schönhausen liked more obviously decorative furniture, and in the same year Vile made

for her a jewel cabinet of oak and mahogany, veneered with

an excellent loan exhibition of sea pictures is a feature of this year's Brighton Festival. Organized by Peyton Skipwith of the Fine Art Society and presented on behalf of the Brighton Festival Society at the Brighton Polytechnic, Grand Parade, from now until May 19, the exhibition consists of British paintings of sea and seashore by artists who had painted a summer from the Impressionist movement. Many of them worked towards the end of the last century and in the early years of the twentieth found the atmosphere of Brighton and on the French coast, of Dieppe especially congenial. There are striking examples of the inspiration derived from sojourns at these resorts, though sea and sky without local reference also exerted their spell.

The Scottish painter, William McTaggart, was exceptional as a self-made Impressionist and almost a stranger to France, but essentially in the spirit of the development was his rendering of the "silver sea". Characteristic is the catalogue photograph of the artist face to face with nature on the beach, his canvas and easel in the heavy stone while he studies the incoming waves. Painters equally at home on either side of the Channel were Whistler and Sickert, Jacques Emile Blanche and Théodore Rousseau, all of whom are represented. Charles Conder is at his delicate best in beach scenes at both Brighton and Dieppe observed with a sense of idyll and rendered with a butterfly lightness of style. Wilson Steer is represented by paintings that again recall the brilliance of his early work when the influence of Paris was fresh. The *Two Girls* from the Impressionist Beach, from Plymouth Art Gallery suggests a conscious emplacement of the pointillist style. A number of small oil sketches show Steer in entirely spontaneous effort. The large picture of nude bathers, *A Summer's Evening*, last shown in the Royal Academy's exhibition, "Impressionism", reinforces their effect.

The exhibition has many pleasant surprises. Among them is Orpen's *On the Beach, Howth*, 1910, a work full of limpid colour and light, free from the heavy gloss that often marred his later work. Sir William

Nicholson's *The Brig*, 1906, from the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art has a telling simplicity and the richness of oil paint on a coarsely textured canvas in which Nicholson excelled. The *Small Wave* of the *Ship* by William Stott of Oldham traces out a sea pattern with startling fidelity. In *On the Sands*, c. 1905, Hugh Bellamy Smith showed a sensitive quality that somewhat relates him to Conder. Mostly the pictures are of the sea in its beginning aspect, but Brangwyn's early canvas, *The Wrack Gatherers*, continues the tradition of Israel in its evocation of toil.

William Gaunt

Above: Beach Scene,

Dieppe, by Charles

Conder, from Sheffield

City Art Galleries.

Right: Sir William

Nicholson's The Brig

(1906), from the Scottish

National Gallery of

Modern Art.

BUXTON ANTIQUES FAIR Until May 12

Daily 11.30 a.m.-9 p.m. (last Sun.)

WHITECHAPEL ART GALLERY, Whitechapel Art Galleries, S.W.1

18th April-17th May.

TIN HEAD (familial) no. 3, 18th April-17th May.

TEMPORARY ANGLO-FRENCH CONTEMPORARY FURNITURE Exhibition by Alexander T. Smith, 18th April-17th May. Admission free.



J. Hutchinson

## When an Englishman's stately home is his liability

"Travellers of holiday neighbours hourly chase me from my apartments or strolling around the environs keep me prisoner." The eighteenth-century equivalent of the day tripper was not welcome at Lord Lyttelton's home at Cobham Hall in 1778.

Nearly 200 years later stately home owners might privately commiserate with the complaint but none the less welcome such hordes. The arrival of mass motoring and the cost of maintaining Britain's great houses has turned a nuisance initiated by enterprising servants in the harassed lord's time into a business worth £20m to £25m per year. In fact the girls' school which now owns Cobham Hall charges 20p to visitors.

The more than seven million sightseers who will cross the historic or private thresholds of 302 private houses, ranging from palaces to mere manor houses. They will pay 5p to see the hunt kennels at Badminton or £1.50 to allow monkeys to swing on their wing mirrors in Woburn's Wild Animal Kingdom.

The age of the modern stately home was introduced by Lord Bath in 1946. He resurrected a practice well-established by Victorian times when Chatsworth drew 80,000 in one year.

Lord Bath said death duties made him go public but many other owners place the blame on the cost of keeping their homes literally intact. Some have taken government grants towards renovation and the money comes with a requirement to open for a given number of days each year. To get grant, in the first place, 50 per cent of the cost must be put up and this in itself can be a reason for opening, even before there is any requirement.

Once open it becomes virtually impossible to close again. Only two homes have done so; one being Sutton Hall where Mr Getty could afford the cost of repairing a leaking roof out of his own pocket as one of the world's richest men.

For other less fortunate owners the pennies from the public help to maintain the fabric. Ragley Hall received grants of over £100,000 but it still costs £20,000 to run the place with incidentals like £100 a time to clean the windows. In the winter 600 gallons of oil are needed every eight days to heat Dodington House.

Owners of lesser homes look at Beaulieu and Woburn and shudder. Lord Montague estimates his annual running costs at six figures. Faced with this it is little wonder owners will give water ski demonstrations as did the Marquess of Hertford or welcome nudists as did the Duke of Bedford, perhaps *primum inter pares* among the stately home owners before his retirement.

Bur when the antics and china exhibitions are over few owners claim to make a profit. Less than 40, perhaps as few as six, are estimated to be in this happy position. Dusting off the Rembrandts is not enough to cater for the tastes of today or the problem of tax.

Apart from the costs of maintenance the Inland Revenue makes its toll. Under a category called Case One, which covers 20 houses, the costs of maintenance can be offset. But owners have to show they stand a chance of making a profit to reap this benefit. Few apparently can and the rest come under Case Six which means that only costs such as guides or car parks can be offset and not omnipresent repairs.

The simple exercise of showing is not enough and the homes at the top of the league have gone on to use

advantages of geographical position and parkland to develop leisure industries; their owners and managers talk about providing a complete day out for the family.

The result is that Beaulieu attracts 750,000 visitors a year and Woburn which refuses to issue figures, is thought to be somewhere close. They are nowhere near the three million at the Tower of London but doing very nicely thank you.

Their hard-headed professionalism has helped to spawn new service industries. Once it was pencil makers and guide book printers. Now it is leisure con-

cerns, drawing up plans and providing landscape artists, lawyers and architects.

One firm advertises for owners interested in going into partnership with outside money. Another has between 40 and 50 owners on its books with projects ranging from £250,000 to £30m.

The most obvious result is a game park at a cost between £250,000 and £750,000, involving roads at £25,000 a mile, lions home-bred for £20 each and elephants at £2, a trunk. Otherwise it may be a boating lake, golf course or conference facilities.

But there are some who cannot develop in this way, or do not wish to do so. The Earl of Mansfield's Stone Palace offers antiques and antiquities, bring in £5,000 and has made profits for the past five years. However, Ragley Hall with 40,000 visitors after 16 years has only had one profitable year. Right at the bottom are places like Heath Hall near Wakefield, where there are weeks without visitors.

When people do come most owners find them agreeable. The reason for the journey varies from curiosity to a valid reason for a Sunday drive. Owners especially if they are titled, and there are 69 involved in the business, sometimes put themselves on show.

It might be worth as much as 50,000 extra visitors.

The season is just getting into its annual stride of polyglot coachloads of tourists and public saloons and many an owner will whisper a little prayer for rain to encourage the turnover but not reveal the leaks in the roof.

Dexterity has allowed many owners to survive homicidal monarchs and rebellious rabbles but now they say face the axe of the proposed wealth tax. They fear it will bring a fatal blow to a difficult business and furious lobbying has begun.

Like the recalcitrant barons of old they have allied. First they planned to fight Case One and Case Six but now have turned to this new threat. The Historic Houses Association has 120 members and in keeping with the times and realities calls itself a trade union.

Stewart Tendler



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Not all of Mr Enoch Powell's friends and well-wishers are best pleased by the prospect that he may choose to return to Westminster via Ulster. They are fretting not so much because they would prefer him to represent an English constituency (a Welsh one would be equally acceptable—his family probably originated in Redditch), but because they recognize the political danger to Mr Powell of excessive involvement in Northern Ireland.

Gilmour, a member of the Shadow Cabinet, in the columns of *The Times*, Mr Clive Landa, chairman of the Young Conservative Organization, assails the party hierarchy. Provincial grandees of the National Union assail the mandarins of Smith Square. Among all the various arms and auxiliaries of the Tory Party—from PEST and the Bow Group to the perversely-named Selston Group—there is a growing sense of their old confidence.

Nothing could be more welcome. The party is again becoming interesting. It all illustrates what I was suggesting last Saturday: the renewal of political vitality. The Tories are perking up after their understandable depression over the election. They are regaining something of their old confidence.

If debate means discord, well and good. No harm should come of dissension over policy so long as there is agreement in the end. The party would be in poor shape if there were none.

In Opposition, policy is the special province of the Conservative Research Department, co-operating with the National Advisory Committee and its dissemination chart of the party organization. In considering the future, it may be instructive to look at the past.

From 1945 to 1951, when the Tories were in Opposition under Churchill, Lord Woolton was chairman of the party. R. A. Butler was chairman of the Research Department. The Woolton-Butler partnership, though not completely congenial to either, was a resounding

success. Woolton supplied the organization with each of these two chairmen, combining strong-minded personal capacity with a recognized political stature.

Later there was the Hall-

Butler partnership under

Mr Macmillan (already in office)—Lord Hailesham as chairman of the party, Butler

still chairman of the Research Department. Again, it was a brilliant combination (remember the Tory majority of 100 in the 1959 election, little more than two years after Suez, when at the time seemed likely to ruin the Conservatives).

This suggests that under its appointed leader the Conserva-

tive Party can best prosper when each of these two chairmen combines strong-minded personal capacity with a recognized political stature.

Now, when the two chairmen are scarcely less important than the leader himself and can hold their own with him.

At present Lord Carrington has the makings of a notably good chairman. His qualities are: shrewd, frank and good-humoured, his frank and good-humoured, his also a considerable man's affairs, though not, alas, a great speaker like Lord Halifax (neither was Woolton).

His critics among MPs of members of the National Union have no need to go on moans about the party organization's administrative imperfections in a election campaign. That is safely left to Lord Carrington to put right where it is wrong. Instead, they may apply their minds to the business of serious politics.

The underground car-park in Palace Yard is now complete at long last. Meanwhile, I hear, the Greater London Council is thinking of restricting three squares to pedestrians: Leicester Square, Trafalgar Square and Parliament Square.

Alternatively, it is suggested, Sir Michael Fraser might be released from his deputy chairmanship of the party organization to concentrate on research and policy, with an enhanced authority that would accompany his full attention to what is now most needed. This would

be a good many Conservatives think that this arrangement should be changed, so that in a period of reconstruction and recovery the Research Department, co-operating with the National Advisory Committee, should be left to Lord Carrington to put right where it is wrong. Instead, they may apply their minds to the business of serious politics.

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Printing House Square, London, EC4P 4DE Telephone 01-236 2000

## THE CAUSES OF CORRUPTION

Short's letter which we sh today contains a denial he knew at the relevant in 1963 that Mr T. Dan had any connection with that denial is, of course, complete answer to the charge Mr. Short himself should recognized that his support the Cruden's contract might be associated with his acceptance payment from Mr T. Dan.

The letter reads as a whole shows something else: how easily a serious and important can come to be connected with affairs which are disquiet.

*The Times* has not been unduly rigorous about the recent cases of scandal or pseudo-scandal that arise in political life. We been critical and enquiring. Could a newspaper not but we have not been as rigorous about Mr Wilson's letters, or Mr Short or Mr. Ling, or even Mr. Nixon, let Herr Brandt as *The Times* probably have been at other times in the paper's

not? It is not because we become insensitive to the ability of corruption, though to keep a sense of relative s. Even knowingly corruptians are to be preferred to who murder their

in Land Rovers. Yet option remains a great

evil, and even the creation which consists in

is corrupt friends has to a penalty disproportionate a moral offence committed in considering any individual case one has to recognize we live in a period propitious

ruption. In the first place at a time when religious are in decline; fewer believe in absolute

ards than at any time in

history; they believe

in absolute religious

ards, nor in absolute

ist standards. As a result

children are not taught

there is a real difference

between right and wrong;

ince, sexual licence, drug

iction, major thefts and petty

es like shoplifting are all on

## DECISION FOR ITALY

years ago it seemed clear republican Italy, like de Gaulle's France, had decided to "marry her ury". She had modernized industry at breakneck speed had thrown herself with usiasm into the European community, and conquered markets all over Europe alarming dynamism. Her effects, film-makers, and others were the envy of the d. She also boasted the d's most liberal and intended Communist Party, one of its most imaginative vigorous trade union movements. She had a Centre Left government of progressive p, which was beginning to le the vast backlog of social rums. Her collective mentality shaking itself free from the age of a Catholic Church itself was undergoing an ornamento. When in 1970 a divorce law at last reached the book, the protests of olicies and Christian Democra appeared more formal than

thoroughly this would have an optimistic summary. The picture could have been with rather more emphasis on the shadows: the wide-

banching a currency

Mr R. Palme Dutt

In his most informative letter on question of the gold standard I Lord Boothby has confused with Keynes. Lord Boothby's (your issue of May 4): "Lenin said that the best and surest of destroying the capitalist system was to debauch it in currencies". In his book *The Economic Consequences of the Peace* published 1919, M. Keynes wrote: "There is no question of overturning existing basis of society than is the currency". This is possibly the citation which Lord Boothby has in mind. Lenin's treatment of the issues involved in the of gold in different historical periods was far more complex and

faithfully.

IAN HARGRAVES,

Managing Editor,

Southport Visiter Group of News papers,

22 Tullbeck Street,

Southport,

Lancashire.

May 3.

quiry into the press

Mr Ian Hargraves

As Managing Editor of a group predominantly weekly newspapers I say how much I welcome the government's decision to try and establish certain basic standards of labour within the industry. It is doubtful whether a Royal Commission is the best way of doing this, there is an obvious need for a new code of editorial practice for the public to know what it is.

Anybody involved with newspapers is aware of the cynicism with which many people currently view the actions of some of the large corporations which, before recently developing into a blanket trust of the whole profession of journalism. If this is to be dispelled, the newspapers can, with the implicit trust of their readers, it is the latter should understand the principles by which the former operate.

The press consistently, and quite

the increase—so far as statistics show—and in all countries except probably China.

In an age of looser morality and softer disciplines, a dishonest, or less honest, people cannot expect to be governed by a political class who will alone retain the old standards of probity, let alone the old standards of appropriate company. If the Leader of the Labour Party was introduced to Mr. Milne, the Deputy Leader of the Labour Party was a friend of Mr. T. Dan Smith and Mr. Maulding was a colleague of Mr. Poulson, they were exposed to a risk from which no one can readily be immune. They met many people because there are a lot of funny people around.

The deterioration of standards is the result also of strong social and economic influences. What

ever its virtues—real or pretended—socialism tends to be

demoralizing to the individual.

Socialism believes in the power

of the state and in redistributive

taxation. Any increase in the

power of the state increases the

motive to corruption, because the

wealth to be had from the state

becomes disproportionate to what

the individual can win for

himself. The impersonality of the

state is also corrupting. Everyone

who has served in the forces

knows that what is everybody's

property is nobody's property.

Men will cheat the state who

would not cheat an individual

because they feel that no particular person will suffer.

Socialism is also a financial

attack on the individual. When

Mr Healey announces with

that he will make the rich how

with anguish, what response does

he expect? Of course the

response that he gets is that he

is seen as the enemy of the

taxpayer, as an unjust judge in

the nation's affairs, and that his

actions will be avoided if they

possibly can. He destroys the

consent to taxation. It is inevitable that this sort of socialism will breed contempt for law; if the taxpayer sees himself as

threatened by confiscatory tax

on an inflated income, and

by a man who makes a hoard of

his personal pleasure in grinding

taxation, he will fight back.

in such circumstances men do

yield to temptation; their sense

of honesty is destroyed, their

careers are destroyed. Others are

almost equally damaged by their

friends and colleagues yielding

to temptation, even though they

have not given way themselves.

It is part of the troubles of our

time, for, like inflation, corruption

is world wide. Yet it is no

good hoping that we can have

those institutions, the socialist

state, the over-powerful bureau

cracy, the attack on individual

savings, the attack on individual

earnings, the circulation of bad

money, which have always under

mined the honesty of society in

the past, and not have to face the

corruption which has been their

natural consequence throughout

man's history.

authorities where I have experience

as a board member, local govern

ment support may result in a dic

tion of exclusively amateur or

poplar policies to the theatre. The

role of central Government is criti

cal in order to encourage and con

trol a national policy for the arts, to

ensure that the development and fu

ture is not stifled by local govern

ment answerable to an electorate

concerned largely with rates.

Regional repertory theatre has

traditionally relied on joint support

from local government and central

Government marched with nearly

50 per cent of takings from box

office, trading and donations. Cur

rently, trends towards greater com

munity involvement in theatre has mi

ttated against the larger architectural

splendour of the old houses and

many such theatres are being sucked

down in a vortex of their own

making.

On the one hand we are encour

aged to preserve the beautiful build

ings which are exceedingly expens

ive to run and maintain. They are

needed as houses for touring opera

and ballet, and national companies and

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## COURT CIRCULAR

KENSINGTON PALACE  
May 10: The Duchess of Gloucester, on behalf of the Duke, President of the Royal Humane Society, was present at the Society's 200th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service, held in St. Paul's Cathedral, today. The Hon. Jane Walsh was in attendance.

REACHED HOUSE LODGE RICHMOND PARK

May 10: Princess Alexandra and the Hon. Angus Ogilvy this afternoon visited the Royal Hospital on the occasion of the remembrance of the reconstructed Eastern Wing.

Her Royal Highness and the Hon. Angus Ogilvy travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight.

The Hon. Lady Rowley was in attendance.

The Prince of Wales will attend the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust reunion and present medals to the fellows of 1953 at the Festival Hall on May 17.

Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, will be present at an evening reception of the Royal Antiques Fair at Earls Court on June 7 in aid of Action Research for the Crippled Child. There will be an auction of antiques conducted by Mr. Peter Wilson, chairman of Sotheby's.

A memorial service for Mr. Jim Conway, former General Secretary of the AUEW, will be held at St. Margaret's church, Westminster, London, SW1, on Thursday, May 16, at noon.

## Life peerages

The life baronies conferred on Sir Robert Taitton and Sir Taitton-Bethell have been granted by the names, styles and titles of Baron Tramire of Upsall in the county of North Yorkshire, and Baron Chelwood of Lewes in the county of East Sussex.

## Birthdays today

Sir John Compton Miller, 71; Sir Percival Fahey, 67; Sir Albert Kennedy, 65; Sir Norman Kipping, 73; Professor W. N. Medlicott, 74; Miss Carolia Orman, 77; Sir Norman Touche, 85; Hon. Montague Woodward, MP, 57.

TOMORROW: Mr Lennox Berkeley, 71; Sir George Dummer, 67; Sir Harold Grime, 78; Lord Hinton of Banksides, 73; Dr Dorothy Horsfall, 64; Dr. H. V. Horowitz, 68; Mr. William Hyde White, 73; Professor N. Kaldor, 66; Sir David Lowe, 75; Sir Francis Meynell, 88; Rear-Admiral Sir Matthew Slattery, 72; Sir Robert Stanley, 75; Sir Charles Trinder, 68.

## Forthcoming marriages

Mr. C. J. Burgess and Miss A. Evelyn

The engagement is announced between Christopher John, only son of Mr. and Mrs. John Burgess, of Lower Stotfold, Bedfordshire, and Anne-Marie, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Evelyn, of Kingston, Jamaica.

Mr. W. A. John and Miss J. P. Beckman

The engagement is announced between Bill, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. K. John, of Glastonbury, Somerset, and Jane, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Beckman, of Heath Drive, Hampshire.

Mr. S. Muhtar Gürçüm and Miss B. Baykay

The engagement is announced between Selcuk, younger son of the late Michael Muhtar, of Istanbul, Turkey, and Turkan, and Hulya, younger daughter of Bay Ramu and Bayan Sukran Baykay, of Kiziltepe, Istanbul.

Mr. C. F. F. Nettleton and Miss D. M. Spencer

The engagement is announced between Christopher Charles Frederick, only son of Mr. and Mrs. R. Nettleton, of Great Ouseburn, York, and Mrs. D. M. Spencer, of Addis Ababa and Gatehurst, Petts, Sussex.

The marriage will take place in the church of the Crippled Child, Charles Street, on June 7 in aid of Action Research for the Crippled Child. There will be an auction of antiques conducted by Mr. Peter Wilson, chairman of Sotheby's.

A memorial service for Mr. Jim Conway, former General Secretary of the AUEW, will be held at St. Margaret's church, Westminster, London, SW1, on Thursday, May 16, at noon.

Mr. W. P. Shepherd and Miss A. M. Wells

The engagement is announced between William, second son of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Shepherd, of Bessell, Cheshire, and Ammeta, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Wells of Sampson, Oxford, and Port of Spain, Trinidad.

Mr. C. M. Sham and Miss E. C. Beckett

The marriage will take place of Charles Macdonald, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. Athol C. Sham, Townsville, Australia, and Rosemary, daughter of the late Captain W. N. T. Beckers, MVO, DSC, Royal Navy, and the late Mrs. Napier Beckett, of Sydney, Australia.

Mr. W. R. Shepherd and Miss A. M. Wells

The engagement is announced between William, second son of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Shepherd, of Bessell, Cheshire, and Ammeta, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Wells of Sampson, Oxford, and Port of Spain, Trinidad.

## Latest appointments

Latest appointments include: Professor R. Cramp and Professor A. C. Renfrew to be new members of the reconstituted Ancient Monuments Board for England.

Mr. J. W. Roker, MP, to be parliamentary private secretary to the Secretary General, Mr. P. K. Archer, QC.

Sir John Kendrew, FRS, to be a member of the board of trustees of the British Museum for five years, representing the Royal Society.

The appointment of Mr. A. K. Falzon, secretary of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and director-general, succeeding Mr. W. J. Chalmers, is to take effect from April 1, 1975.

The Duke of Kent, accompanied by the Duchess of Kent, will review the In-Pensioners at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, on Founder's Day, June 5.

## Science report

### Botany: Plea for lilies of the field

The lily in its varied glory has long had a special place in human affections. But how much longer will it remain so will largely depend on whether they are sufficiently protected by law. In a recent issue of *Biological Conservation*, Dr. F. S. C. Stoop van de Kastele, of the Nature Conservation Department, Wageningen, pleads for a proper inventory of the known wild species of lily and for the protection of the habitat of these plants. He argues that, in addition to their educational, scientific and aesthetic value, wild lilies provide an important genetic resource for selection and breeding of cultivated strains.

Dr. Stoop van de Kastele reckons there are 80 to 90 wild species and subspecies of lily in the genus *Lilium* which vary in the shape and colour of the flower: some are like a funnel, others resemble a trumpet, a Turk's cap, an open cup or bell. They range from pure white to yellow, orange, red and black-brown. There may be either pure or spotted, dotted or striped. Some are quite small, whereas others may be two metres high.

Lilies occur wild only in the northern hemisphere and even there they are limited, with a few exceptions, to certain areas in sub-tropical habitats as the slopes of volcanoes, mountain chains and swamps. Perhaps unfortunately for science, but fortunately for conservation, some habitats are so inaccessible that new species are still coming to light. One of the most important garden lilies, the regal lily, *L. regale*, was found in China as recently as 1903, and at

least seven have been discovered in central Asia during the past 20 years.

Lilies have never been common in the maritime European countries and those few that remain today are probably secondary growth. Thousands of lilies are gathered each year in Japan, where there is

now a law, passed in 1967, to protect the rare species, *L. alexandrae* and *L. nobilissimum*.

Cultivation of a few lilies, such as *L. candidum* in Europe and *L. longiflorum* in the Far East, in Asia, has had a long history, but until fairly recently growing of other species was regarded as tricky. Crossing the species proved particularly difficult until after the Second World War when man-made hybrids became commercially available through the introduction of modern techniques of breeding and crossing.

Of the 190 or so recognized wild species and varieties of lily, only 52 had been successfully used in crosses by 1962. As recently as 1965 good commercial hybrids were created in the United States from the rare *L. plicatum*, which grows in only one place in California. This cross is just one of many that might be achieved, and it is for this and other reasons that Dr. Stoop van de Kastele urges urgent conservation of the natural species, with their varied characteristics and resistance to disease. It is also possible, if new species may come to light in central Asia and other little-explored areas.

In Italy it is thought that a few wild plants of *L. bulbiferum* may remain, but they are unprotected. In France the minor Turk's-cap lily, *L. pumilum*, was given the status of *L. albus* in 1965. *L. martagon* and *L. pumilum* are at the mercy of collectors and tourists. Nine species grow in the Caucasus; those growing in Soviet territory are likely to find a home in central Asia and other little-explored areas.

By Nature-Times News Service  
Source: *Biological Conservation*, Vol. 1, 26-31, 1974.

By Nature-Times News Service  
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Latest wills

Latest estates include (net, before legal and professional fees):

£1,000, Mrs Dorothy of Cambridge (widow of the late Ezra Pound) (duty paid, £27,375) .. 543,067

£1,000, Sir Thomas Young, of Roxburgh, Sir Thomas Young, former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Edinburgh, and his wife, Mrs. Mary Young (widow of the late Sir Thomas Young) (duty paid, £1,242) .. 1,242

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## SPORT

## Racing

## Just the right distance for Bustino

By Michael Phillips  
Racing Correspondent  
It is doubtful whether we in England will see a better trial for the Derby than last Saturday's 2,000 Guineas, but that does not mean that races such as today's Ladbroke Derby Trial Stakes at Lingfield Park are not of value. They all help to play a part in the piecing together of the intricate classic puzzle.

Heavenly Form, who ran so well in her first race this season at Newbury, where she was beaten nearly two lengths by Kunupu, that race was over a mile and I left the course convinced that a race another two furlongs would suit Heavenly Form better. Now she has her opportunity to prove the point. Her task is far from easy, however.

Take a Reef, the top weight, was a fluent winner at Epsom, although his opposition admittedly did not amount to much. When Sir Colman and Prince, both beaten only narrowly in their last races, promise to be real threats, more dangerous than either of Lady Beaufort's two runners.

Robert's Bigbird, the third, is a filly, and Major Role has promised to break a promise never to select this disappointing colt again for the April Fifth Handicap. Major Role worked well at home on Tuesday morning when he was nearing racecourse. He turned up at the stalls to open the race for the Victoria Cup at Ascot and was left lengths behind. Wsely Terry McKeown accepted that pursuit was pointless immediately, so Tudor Fox was not surprised to find a hard race unnecessarily.

The Wray Stakes is likely to be won by Bustino, a sharp filly by St Alphege. She showed her rivals her heels at Epsom last month. She would have finished much closer to the winner if the race had not been so narrow in their last races, promise to be real threats, more dangerous than either of Lady Beaufort's two runners.

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**Telford**  
your opportunity  
Call Bob Tilmouth  
at 0952 613131

## Lloyds Bank pioneers base rate cut to 12 pc as spur to industrial borrowers

Ian Morrison  
Financial Correspondent

Exactly a month after all the clearing banks cut their base rates from 13 to 12½ per cent, Lloyds Bank announced a further reduction to 12 per cent yesterday.

But on this occasion none of the other clearers chose to follow suit. It was left to a newcomer, the Yorkshire Bank, to Lloyds at the new rate.

Although Lloyds' decision coincided with increases in the base rates of several big United States banks, it can be justified technically by the recent introduction of short-term sterling money markets and interest rate caps.

These companies might well rely more heavily on Lloyds for their overdrafts if the other clearers remained at 12½ per cent for any length of time.

At present, Lloyds appears better placed than the other big clearers to accommodate an increase in loan demand. Its reserve ratio last month was 14.1 per cent, higher than any other clearing bank except Williams & Glyn's.

Barclays' ratio, by contrast, was 12.9 per cent, just 0.4 above the minimum figure permitted. But Lloyds' margin of spare liquidity could disappear quickly if it had to meet a disproportionately large share of corporate borrowing requirements.

Mr Shultz predicts firmer dollar and expansion in real US growth

in Frank Vogl  
Springfield, Virginia, May 10  
Mr George Shultz, who has retired as Secretary of the treasury, forecast today that the dollar would gain in strength as progress, and an upward trend in the development of real national product in America would become increasingly evident.

Mr Shultz told a meeting of the Business Council, a group of 150 leading industrialists, he thought interest rates were reaching their peak. His statement coincided with announcements by several New York bankers led by the First National City Bank and the Chase Manhattan Bank of a rise in prime rates to a record 11½ cent from 11 per cent.

Mr Shultz said American real for 1974 would probably show a slight plus. This contrasted with forecasts made by Richard Gerstenblatt, head of General Motors, on behalf of the Business Council, which had zero growth and possibly

bank chief  
ware of  
g staggering  
iterations'

bank manager said at the trial Criminal Court, yesterday, that he knew quite well one of his customers was working on large-scale "staggering" operations between April and July, 1972.

Harold Whittle, former manager of the Midland Bank, Brook Road, Ilford, Essex, holding a position in the head office said: "I knew well what Mr Green's practices were content for that to go in most cases by means of these transfers. The money immediately available, but was a day late. I was perhaps."

Whittle was being cross-examined by Mr Brian Neill, defending Mr Monty Green, of Lord Avenue, Chigwell, Essex. Mr Green and his lawyer, Mr Alan Greenham, barrister, of Clare Road, Forest Gate, East London, faced several charges ofortion and dishonesty by giving applications relating to caging of shares issues.

Monty Green and his wife in an account at the Cranbrook branch, Mr Whittle said made it clear to Mr Green he was not prepared to grant draft facilities to meet his if funds were not available. He thought Mr Green was aware of the normal practices.

Whittle was content over months to "mark" the "Please re-present". He made a nominal charge of if the funds to meet the were a day late. This was all practice.

Mr Whittle said: "At no during the time that I was a bank and Mr Green was using this account, did I suggest to him that there anything illegal or criminal what he was doing."

David Jeffreys, prosecutor, asked Mr Whittle: "It is clear from going through account that Mr Green was acting in a "staggering" operation." Mr Whittle replied:

ferring to one sum of 10, Mr Jeffreys asked Mr Whittle: "Did you receive any sum from Mr Green that as drawing cheques in that sum and would have the to meet them either that or the next day?" Mr Whittle: "Not in every case trial continues."

trage operations, under which overdrafts are raised and recycled at a profit on to the money market.

"So," he argued, "under which large customers shop around for the cheapest form of short-term finance, may be more of a problem. Although the main practitioners—local authorities—are not as large a group of customers for Lloyds as for its larger rivals, there are many industrial and commercial companies with more than one bank account.

These companies might well rely more heavily on Lloyds for their overdrafts if the other clearers remained at 12½ per cent for any length of time.

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Barclays' ratio, by contrast, was 12.9 per cent, just 0.4 above the minimum figure permitted. But Lloyds' margin of spare liquidity could disappear quickly if it had to meet a disproportionately large share of corporate borrowing requirements.

Mr Shultz predicted firmer dollar and expansion in real US growth

published shortly would show that for the 1974 fiscal year, an almost balanced budget position should be achieved, Mr Shultz said.

He would not give specific exchange rates, but noted that the dollar would be higher in December than it was now, reflecting the improved health of the economy.

He justified his substantial optimism on inflation—where he predicted that the end year rate would be almost half the present rate—by noting that there had already been sharp falls in food prices; the main surge in oil prices had taken place and costs were likely to rise only modestly, and that with non-food commodities, a levelling off of demand could lead to significant price decline.

Mr Shultz forecast that the average development of real gdp for all leading industrial countries this year was likely to be only about 1 per cent against the 6.6 per cent last year.

Mr Shultz and the Business Council agreed that at this time it was essential for the government to maintain a stable monetary policy and aim for a balanced budget. Figures to be

summers to continue to relax duty on a wide range of imported steel products.

The British Iron and Steel Consumers Council has urged that the duty exemptions on products from the EEC should be extended from the end of June to the end of September.

It is argued that the shortage of some iron and steel products is becoming more acute, mainly because of strikes at British Steel Corporation works and production shortfalls due to cuts in scrap and billet supplies.

The British Welded Steel Tube Manufacturers' Association has issued a warning to members that BSC allocations through autumn are likely to be cut by up to 50 per cent.

The confederation, which represents the majority of United Kingdom interests in the production of steel tube for furniture, motor, agricultural and general engineering trades, says that earlier optimism about improvements in British steel supplies for precision welded tubing has proved to be unrealized.

Disturbance of demand as a result of short-time working tended to cloud the true availability position, BWSTMA says, and manufacturers must inevitably resort to buying continental imports. Future local labour will also be needed.

Import plan: The Government has come under pressure from the country's iron and steel con-

tractors to meet his if funds were not available.

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On other pages

## THE TIMES BUSINESS NEWS

### Decision on monetary reform again deferred

By Our Economics Staff

Report of the International Monetary Fund's Committee of 20, to be held in Washington on June 12 and 13.

Their deputies, under Mr Jeremy Morse, concluded their three day meeting at Paris on Thursday without reaching agreement on a number of key technical issues. Various options will now be put to the finance ministers who will have to make the political decisions.

These "technical" decisions relate to whether the price of official gold holding should be increased to bring it more into line with the present market price; which currencies should be included in the "basket" on which the value of special drawing rights (SDRs) should in future be based; what interest rate should be paid to holders of SDRs; and whether to adopt guidelines to regulate the behaviour of central banks in managing their floating currencies.

Our Paris Correspondent writes that at a press conference late on Thursday, Mr Morse announced that his group had prepared guidelines for the regulation of floating.

He hoped that, if adopted, they would be made public. Giving an optimistic account of the three day meeting, he said work on an interim system of valuation for SDRs had gone well and could be operative next month.

It would be up to the IMF's executive board to establish the precise list of currencies to which the SDR would be tied. Mr Morse claimed that the disagreement on the interest rate to go with SDRs was not wide.

The Paris meeting ends the preparation of a reformed monetary system, the task given to the Committee of 20 almost two years ago. Several delegates were a good deal less optimistic than Mr Morse.

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The group has also prepared recommendations for the international adjustment process and the future management of international liquidity.

### Employers press for revision of weighting bonus

By Malcolm Brown

Pressure is growing on the Government to amend the Pay Code to allow employers to pool the London weighting allowance. In evidence submitted to the Pay Board over the last few days the Confederation of British Industry suggests a pooling arrangement—allowing employers flexibility in compensating particularly essential employees.

It is expected that this would apply mainly to public sector employees, but would not exclude the private sector. The CBI's evidence has been submitted at the invitation of the Pay Board, which expects to complete its report on the future of London weighting by the end of next month.

The confederation has put forward proposals for both the short and long term. In the short term it wants the Pay Code changed so that a limited number of employers who did not originally adopt the weighting formula laid down in 1967 by the National Board for Prices and Incomes should be permitted to do so immediately.

If they could produce evidence that protection and efficiency were being hit by having to pay £200 a year for Greater London employees and £100 for outer London over and above the Phase Three limits under the

Investor's week, page 21

The Times index: 121.06 +1.20  
F.T. index: 307.24 +4.7

### How the markets moved

Rises

Bank of England 3p to 224p  
Bank of Scotland 2p to 175p  
Courtaulds 4p to 107p  
Central Man 31p to 423p  
GKN 5p to 187p  
Leslie 12p to 185p  
Lyons, J. A. 10p to 196p

Falls

Ass'nt Censt 1p to 137p  
Bank of Scotland 5p to 225p  
Cowle, T. 2p to 22p  
First Nat Fin 2p to 328p  
GKN 5p to 217p  
Lloyds Bk 7p to 193p  
Pearl

Equities scored fresh gains.

Mid-capped securities rose strongly after news of a base rate cut from Lloyds Bank.

Sterling eased 15 points to \$2.4200.

The effective devaluation rate was 17.45 per cent.

Gold rose \$1.25 to \$167.35.

### Norwegian government decides in favour of piping Frigg gas to UK

By Roger Vielvroye  
Energy Correspondent

Big new supplies of natural gas should become available to British industry by the end of this decade. This will follow the controversial decision of the Norwegian Government yesterday to recommend that gas from the Norwegian sector of the North Sea Frigg field should be piped to Britain.

The Frigg field straddles the median line between the British and Norwegian sectors of the North Sea, east of the Shetlands.

The French Total Marine group has contracted to supply gas from the British sector to British Gas but the Petroleum contract covering supplies from the Norwegian sector is being reviewed by a consortium of European utilities.

The last large-scale contract with British Gas for offshore gas from the Viking field was at 1.5p a therm. It is thought that the price for supplies from the British sector of Frigg, where the corporation has a monopoly buying rights, is marginally less than the Norwegian contract price.

British Gas has started work on a coastal terminal to receive the gas at St Fergus in Aberdeenshire and will be laying more than 700 miles of pipelines to transmit the gas to the main transmission network.

Before reaching its decision,

all the alternatives to a pipeline to Scotland were considered.

British Gas has not revealed the price it will pay for supplies from the Norwegian sector. The white paper gives a figure of 62 cents per million cubic feet which is, at the revised exchange rates, only slightly more expensive than the 23.5 pence per therm paid for Ekofisk gas by a consortium of European utilities.

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Before reaching its decision,

**Telford**  
has the space  
and the people  
for growing  
companies



**Mr J. D. Pile  
to head  
Imperial  
Group board**

As forecasted at the annual meeting, Sir John Partidge retires as chairman of the Imperial Group next March. He will be succeeded by Mr J. D. Pile, chief executive—a position he will retain.

Other Imperial appointments include the move of Mr B. B. C. Watson to group headquarters to assist Mr Pile. He retains his post as managing director of the Courage brewery subsidiary. Another Courage director, Mr R. O. Steel, is joining the parent board immediately, and from July will be vice-chairman of Courage, while Mr M. B. Bunting will be its new managing director.

The new chairman and managing director of the John Player & Sons subsidiary is to be Mr F. C. Kent, replacing Mr G. A. Ides, who retires at the end of 1974.

**Metal Box wins  
third price increase**

Metal Box announced last night that the Price Commission had authorized its third and largest round of price rises this year. These reflect increases of up to 25 per cent on input price of power of money. Under this basis a deficit of £890,000 on the year's revenue account becomes a surplus of £121,000 on March 24, which is as being up by as much as 20 per cent.

**Nixon homes boost**

President Nixon yesterday announced steps to inject \$10,300m (about £4.291m)—most of it in private funds—into the housing market before the end of the year to make home loans easier to get.

**Motorola rejects bid**

Motorola Incorporated yesterday advised Zenith Radio Corporation, which offered to negotiate to acquire two Motorola television set plants, that "discussions for the purchase of these facilities would not be productive".

**US Ford on full time**

Ford is planning full operations at its United States plants during the rest of this month and will recall 1,200 workers.

**Wall St down 15.33**

A fresh rise in bank prime rates hit shares throughout the list on the New York Stock Exchange yesterday. The Dow Jones industrial average was 15.33 lower at 850.44 at the close.

daily flight to and from the United States

In a paper issued yesterday the British Aircraft Corporation, joint makers of Concorde with the French company Aerospatiale, claimed that the programme is now so far advanced that it would be more expensive to cancel it than to continue with the 16 aircraft at present being constructed.

## PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

## Grouse

For the past decade or more, there has been widespread agreement that the arrangements in this country for financial provision for old people are unsatisfactory. Too many people have to rely on supplementary benefits. Whatever emphasis is put on entitlements as of right to such benefits, anything which has to be applied for, and is paid out, if need is known, will go only part way to meeting the problem.

So again political parties have produced their solutions: and now both have scrapped their predecessors' plans when they are at an advanced stage. Mrs Castle completed the cycle by announcing in Parliament earlier this week that those sections of Sir Keith Joseph's Social Security Act which deals with earnings related pensions—either through the State Reserve Scheme, or through schemes set up by an employer—are to be repealed.

This means that it will be some years now before anything is done: 1975 will pass, and our old people—and young ones who will one day be old—will continue to fall farther and farther behind the rest of Europe. Of more immediate importance is the position of widows and other dependents of the men and women who might die in the next few years without any form of protection. Under the State Reserve Scheme and the occupational pension scheme which may not now come into being, there would have been

some form of death benefit at least, even if relatively small.

Mrs Castle has committed a serious error of judgment: she should have allowed the 1975 arrangements to go ahead, if for no other reason than that the obligation to make some provision, albeit modest, had been shown to persuade many employers to set up more ambitious arrangements. In other words, even if the plan itself had serious shortcomings, it was creating the right attitudes, and large numbers of employees stood to gain as a result.

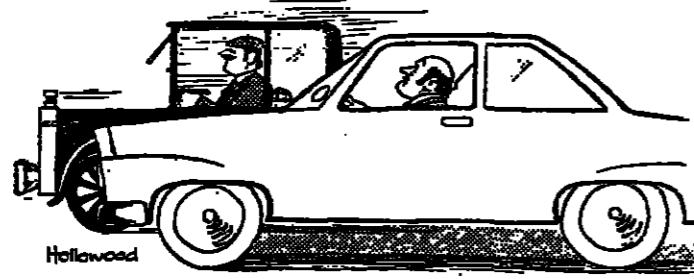
That is not to say it would not have been desirable to change the plan, quite radically. There are serious defects in the scheme enacted by the last Government. At least, it was something, though, and was having a socially desirable effect on attitudes to private pension provision.

The odds now seem to be on a return to Crossman—the type of arrangement put up by the previous Labour Administration—but Richard Crossman is no longer with us to restructure, and no doubt the new Secretary of State will have her own ideas on many matters.

There will be much discussion on the form of scheme to emerge but there must be two overriding considerations: to do something, improving it later, if necessary; and to do it quickly.

## Motor insurance

## Figuring out premiums



...insurers used to increase the premium for cars which were more than, say, five years old. The latest statistics show they were wrong...

Someone with a high mileage (and thus a greater chance of being involved in an accident) will need a fairly new car, whereas old cars tend to be owned by those who cannot afford (or are not inclined) to run them very extensively, and so there is less risk of an accident.

On the other hand, young people often own old cars. And, as is well known, young drivers with little experience are a distinctly poor risk. So there are plenty of factors to be taken into consideration.

One cannot, however, get away from the fact that in general terms the older the car, the better the risk is likely to be.

In the past, insurers used to increase the premium for cars which were more than, say, five years old. The latest statistics show they were wrong and that, ideally, the average premium should be charged for cars which are four or five years old—with more being charged for newer cars and less for older ones.

I have mentioned the age of drivers and, although not all young drivers run into trouble, as a whole the young do not move up the no-claim discount scale as quickly as more mature people.

In view of this, some insurers criticize the practice of some of their competitors of cancelling the extra premium payable by a young driver when he has moved into a higher no-claim discount category, or the highest.

Their argument is that not only are young policy holders, as a whole, receiving more reward than their experience seems to warrant, but also they are probably not being rated up sufficiently for their age.

John Drummond

In most cases, the value of a car which is insured is no longer an important factor on its own, since an allowance for this is made in the premium applicable to the type of car. But many other factors have been introduced in the attempt to make sure that the overall premium from individual groups of motorists is correct.

The whole object of insurance is to spread the load of those who make claims over those who do not, and so it is impossible to arrive at an individual rating. But the claims experience of different types of motorist does differ quite materially and insurers are anxious that, so far as possible, one group should not subsidize another. Thus many refinements are being introduced into the calculations of premiums.

For instance, the age of the car can be important. Taking all cars, irrespective of by whom and where they may be driven, one analysis has shown that the claim frequency per 100 vehicle years is 13.4 for comprehensive and 10.0 for non-comprehensive policies (eg. third party or third party, fire and theft).

For cars less than a year old, the respective figures are 16.9 and 12.1. For comprehensive policies, the claims frequency drops steadily with the age of the car—13.7 for one year old, 15.4 for two-year-old cars, 14.4 for those three or four years old, down to 8.8 for those nine to 12 years and 5.3 for those in the 13-18 age bracket.

While, marginally, older cars may produce lower claims because they are older (eg. a lower figure will have to be paid in the event of total loss), in the main older cars do not produce fewer claims simply because the cars are older.

For instance, old cars are found more frequently in country areas where there are fewer accidents. Probably more important than that is the simple fact that most old cars are used less than new cars.

John Drummond

Illustration: Alan Gaskins

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Despite the complaints from young drivers, most insurers are probably changing their premiums which are really too low, with the result that, to some extent they are still being subsidized by older motorists.

On top of all the calculations to arrive at the correct premium for motorists within individual groups is the no-claim discount—dependent solely on the experience under individual policies, although it must be added that it refers to claims of almost any kind and (apart from some claims under the knock for knock agreement) takes no account of where the blame for a claim may lie.

As the top level of discount has for some time been 60 per cent or 65 per cent (which, in normal circumstances, would be too high), insurers have had to increase their basic premiums.

In turn, this acted harshly on those who had driven claim free for a number of years before owning a car and thus needing their own insurance.

To overcome this difficulty, often an introductory discount of 20 per cent or so may be allowed in approved cases. So the basic premium may be paid by very few people, except those who bring claims and go back to that particular square on the snakes-and-ladders principle.

Whether the no-claim discount scales are really fair is another matter, although it has to be remembered that the aim is not simply to reward the careful driver, but to provide an automatic and fairly stiff penalty for anyone who brings a claim.

Their argument is that not only are young policy holders, as a whole, receiving more reward than their experience seems to warrant, but also they are probably not being rated up sufficiently for their age.

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DITED BY MARGARET STONE

vestor's week

## Retrenchment • Sugar shares

other strong Gilt and steady ones suggest the way to the bull market is still far from clear, even though both Gilt equities proved last week the previous five days had reflected more than just technical reaction in Government securities and a stock market of ordinary shares.

With Gilt buying extending to down-listed stocks, the talk of real money coming back into the market. And the way this rode out the 24-hour evening strike and the threat of a higher wage claim, the FT Index finishing only unchanged on the week, some weight to the argument now being heard that the market is treading out a base line from which the bull phase will be launched. And if the violent fluctuations of the price of Triumph Investor Trust show that dealers have the jitters over the oil sector, then at least the price movements are being localized: while an major casualty of the bear market, property shares, are rising some dignity at the City end.

he flew in this argument is

dealing remain at an historically low level of perhaps

the volume of two months

— a situation that must after

we really see the death

be born and the birth of the

awaited bull market.

★ ★ ★

ative to the market, the major sugar-orientated investments have performed well recent months. But this is surprising given the encouraging outlook for the commodity worldwide, the improving prospect for cane refiners following the general election the strength of the non-traditional activities of both Booker and Tate & Lyle.

through Manbré & Garton



Harvesting cane sugar.

is only second to Tate & Lyle in market performance with a 17 per cent improvement since last November, its position as number two in the cane refining industry and its greater dependence upon sugar and, hence, exposure to political risks render it a less attractive investment than the other three.

On the cane sugar side, adverse weather conditions last year in the Caribbean area led to a serious shortfall in supplies thus enabling, or even encouraging, producers to sell sugar outside the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement at the much more profitable world price.

The expectation that United Kingdom imports of cane sugar will be some 20 per cent below the 1.7 million ton target has in part been responsible for the drawing of around

100,000 tons of sugar from Government emergency stockpiles on the understanding that these will be made good later this year when supplies should become more available.

The shortage helped the Commonwealth producers to strengthen their arguments for a better price, a call answered in March when it was agreed to raise the price by £22 a ton to £23 a long ton. But earlier this month the Guyana government announced its intention of imposing a levy of 55 per cent on the excess when the export price reached £70 and 70 per cent on the excess over £100.

This will bear chiefly on Booker McConnell whose estates are expected to produce this year 304,000 tons of the country's target of 360,000 tons. But this should not detract seriously from the appeal of Booker where earnings this

year should increase from £4.9m to something over £5m. Sugar contributed less than 10 per cent of earnings last year, most of the running will now be made by the shipping, drink and retailing operations both in the United Kingdom and overseas.

Tate and Lyle, having outperformed the FT All Share Index by 31 per cent in the past six months, has perhaps seen the best of its short-term potential used up. This strength is partly a factor of the favourable effect of the current high sugar prices upon its commodity trading side, a strong position in shipping and the increasing confidence that the interests of the United Kingdom cane refiners will be safeguarded in Brussels, although this activity now accounts for only a sixth of profits. At £590 the shares are selling at 8.5 times earnings and yield a highly acceptable 8 per cent.

The British Sugar Corporation, 36 per cent controlled by the Government, is unique in that it is the sole beet sugar producer and depends completely on beet and its by-products. But at least the picture here is significantly clearer than for its cane competitors with the current year expected to bring in profits verging on the £15m level compared with last year's return of £7.07m.

The impetus is coming from the first benefit for the United Kingdom beet industry as it moves towards an integrated EEC pricing structure and, to a lesser extent, an increase in production. At 365p the shares are selling at 11.9 times historic earnings with the prospective ratio around 8. The sugar lies in the yield of only 2.9 per cent although an historic cover of over five times is a point to remember when dividend restraint shows signs of easing.

With a considerably reduced labour force, moved from a loss of £285,000 to a profit of £185,000; profits of the tool business (in spite of its problems) were only £19,000 less at £122,000; while there was a 76 per cent boost on the overseas side from £462,000 to £811,000, with similar buoyancy expected over the final leg. The pre-tax is arrived at after adding in associates of £34,000 (£23,000) and deducting interest of £310,000 (£217,000).

The half-time result to March 22 (which provides another example of the three-day week not proving to be as disastrous as was first thought likely) proved to be a continuation of the trend set in the preceding six months when profits rose sharply from £124,000 in the opening half to £47,000.

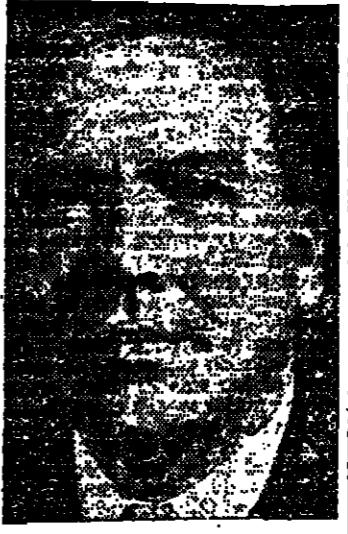
This time there was an almost sevenfold leap to £842,000 with all group companies achieving a profit, including the toolmaking business upon which the restricted working bore most heavily but whose output was helped by the installation of a generator. Total turnover rose from £8.53m to almost £12.5m.

Breaking down profits at the trading level the steel company now producing more than ever

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Looking to the future the board says order books throughout the group are good and subject to the usual provisions the second half should at least match the first. Subject to the consent of the Treasury shareholders are to receive a payment doubled to 1.25p in view of the improvement in earnings.

As a footnote on the price of steel, with all its repercussions on the consumer, the company says prices are "only now" approaching the level required to support the capital investment necessary to the industry.



Mr. Bernard Cotton, chairman of Samuel Osborn: Steel prices are now reaching level required to support the capital investment necessary to the industry.

## Reports

## Liberty looks to exports this year

Along with other retail groups, the profits outlook for Liberty, the London store, in 1974 looks pretty bleak. Mr. A. I. Stewart-Liberty, chairman, says that the Government's proposal to cut retailer's gross profit margins by 10 per cent would, if enforced, almost eliminate the group's retail profit at the level of which could be expected in 1974.

At present sales are up around 2.5 per cent on last year, but taking inflation into account, the gross margin measure and prohibitive rates of interest do not encourage the group to proceed yet with its planned improvements to two London stores.

Wholesale sales of the group subsidiary Liberty of London Prints are around 43 per cent up on the year so far and the order book is around 26 per cent up with export orders strong. He says it is in this direction rather than recalling that the group is looking for improvement in 1974.

## Wimpey takes confident view of future

Builders George Wimpey are in a "very healthy position" and Mr. G. Gaze said his first meeting as chairman that the company looked to the future with a great deal of confidence.

However, there were several imponderables, the outcome of which would determine how the company fared. The chairman said there had been serious supply delays for materials and equipment even before the three-day week began and the increase in fuel costs was another cause for concern.

Inquiries, though, were at a high level for all activities both in the United Kingdom and abroad and turnover was satisfactory in the first quarter.

## WILMOT BREEDEN

Chairman says overseas operations kept group profitable for first quarter which included three-day

week.

## TELEPHONE RENTALS

Group has largest order book in industry and new rental business in first four months of current year is considerably higher.

## HOPKINSONS HOLDINGS

Group's order has prompted many countries to increase substantially number of nuclear power stations to be built in next 10 years and this augurs well for future of company.

## BRITISH OXYGEN-KWIKCUTS

Company acquired fixed assets of Kwikcuts, specialist diamond driller from Bovis. Service will continue.

## WARD WHITE

Chairman told annual meeting this group had "acceptable level of profitability" in first quarter.

## FINANCIAL NEWS

## Strong start puts Samuel Osborn on way to full-time £1.7m

By David Mott

Sheffield-based steel group Samuel Osborn is looking to raise its profits this term from £57,000 to around the £17m mark, a target which, if achieved, would mean an impressive two-year turnaround from the £212,000 loss incurred in 1971-72.

The half-time result to March 22 (which provides another example of the three-day week not proving to be as disastrous as was first thought likely) proved to be a continuation of the trend set in the preceding six months when profits rose sharply from £124,000 in the opening half to £47,000.

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sevenfold leap to £842,000 with all group companies achieving a profit, including the toolmaking business upon which the restricted working bore most heavily but whose output was helped by the installation of a generator.

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As a footnote on the price of steel, with all its repercussions on the consumer, the company says prices are "only now" approaching the level required to support the capital investment necessary to the industry.

## Aberdeen Cons profit drops to six-year low

Although turnover of Aberdeen Construction reached record levels in 1973 group profits were severely cut back by losses of over £1m in building companies in Chesterfield, Glasgow and Edinburgh. In their annual report on half-time the board was confident of producing record figures after overcoming problems of loss-making subsidiaries, but their forecast was overtaken by events. The share price, as if in expectation of bad figures, has been hovering around the year's low point of 52p.

Group taxable profits have

fallen by 30 per cent from £1.6m

to £1.09m and this is arrived at after crediting £212,000, being depreciation written off proper-

ties in prior years and arising as a consequence of the revaluation of properties which have now been carried out. The profits are at the lowest level for over six years and earnings a share have been cut back from 9.27p to 5.38p; but the board are holding the total dividend at 5.25p.

Repeating the group's forecast, its target for the full year is 542,000 in the group's maiden stock market year.

At the interim stage, profits were only modestly lower than the previous year at £187,000, but the first half saw a second half of £168,000. Turnover figures are

not given.

Not content with buying

Freemantle & May (Timber Products) in March for £273,000

shares the board is now negotiating for a number of important acquisitions "which could be of considerable benefit to the group as a whole".

Turnover figures are

not given.

Turnover figures are



## IF YOU HOLD SHARES

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SAVE &amp; PROSPER GROUP



## London and Regional Market Prices

## Gilt rise again

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, Monday Dealings End, May 23 \$ Contango Day, May 24 Settlement Day, June 4  
\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

**HINE**  
connaisseurs' cognac



High Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yield	Open Int.	Close Int.	Div Yld	High Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yield	Open Int.	Close Int.	Div Yld	High Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yield	Open Int.	Close Int.	Div Yld	
<b>BRITISH FUNDS</b>																								
100% Div	Conv. P	1974	890.40	1.00	1,113.00	1,113.00		100% Div	Conv. P	1974	890.40	1.00	1,113.00	1,113.00		100% Div	Conv. P	1974	890.40	1.00	1,113.00	1,113.00		
100% Div	Conv. P	1974	890.40	1.00	1,113.00	1,113.00		100% Div	Conv. P	1974	890.40	1.00	1,113.00	1,113.00		100% Div	Conv. P	1974	890.40	1.00	1,113.00	1,113.00		
100% Div	Conv. P	1974	890.40	1.00	1,113.00	1,113.00		100% Div	Conv. P	1974	890.40	1.00	1,113.00	1,113.00		100% Div	Conv. P	1974	890.40	1.00	1,113.00	1,113.00		
100% Div	Conv. P	1974	890.40	1.00	1,113.00	1,113.00		100% Div	Conv. P	1974	890.40	1.00	1,113.00	1,113.00		100% Div	Conv. P	1974	890.40	1.00	1,113.00	1,113.00		
100% Div	Conv. P	1974	890.40	1.00	1,113.00	1,113.00		100% Div	Conv. P	1974	890.40	1.00	1,113.00	1,113.00		100% Div	Conv. P	1974	890.40	1.00	1,113.00	1,113.00		
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100% Div	Conv. P	1974	890.40	1.00	1,113.00	1,113.00		100% Div	Conv. P	1974	890.40	1.00	1,113.00	1,113.00		100% Div	Conv. P	1974	890.40	1.00	1,113.00	1,113.00		
100% Div	Conv. P	1974	890.40	1.00	1,113.00	1,113.00		100% Div	Conv. P	1974	890.40	1.00	1,113.00	1,113.00		100% Div	Conv. P	1974	890.40	1.00	1,113.00	1,113.00		
100% Div	Conv. P	1974	890.40	1.00	1,113.00	1,113.00		100% Div	Conv. P	1974	890.40	1.00	1,113.00	1,113.00		100% Div	Conv. P	1974	890.40	1.00	1,113.00	1,113.00		
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100% Div	Conv. P	1974	890.40	1.00	1,113.00	1,113.00		100% Div	Conv. P	1974	890.40	1.00	1,113.00	1,113.00		100% Div	Conv. P	1974	890.40	1.00	1,113.00	1,113.00		
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100% Div	Conv. P	1974	890.40	1.00	1,113.00	1,113.00		100% Div	Conv. P	1974	890.40	1.00	1,113.00	1,113.00		100% Div	Conv. P	1974	890.40	1.00	1,113.00	1,113.00		
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100% Div	Conv. P	1974	890.40	1.00	1,113.00	1,113.00		100% Div	Conv. P	1974	890.40	1.00	1,113.00	1,113.00		100% Div	Conv. P	1974	890.40	1.00	1,113.00	1,113.00		
10																								

## PROPERTY also on page 5

## COUNTRY PROPERTIES

DALRULZION HIGHLAND HOTEL,  
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Corner Freighton 2 bed, spacious plus 2 s.e. flats. Owner going abroad. View anytime, ring 828 9259 before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m. first offer over £40,000 secure.

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